

# **Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting**

**Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center  
1101 Woodlawn Avenue  
Georgetown, Texas 78628**

## **Meeting Schedule**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

**3:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Room: Ames Meeting Room

**Thursday, May 4, 2017**

**8:30 AM – 9:15 AM**

Council Meeting Overview  
Room: San Gabriel Ballroom HJK

**9:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

Committee of the Whole  
Room: San Gabriel Ballroom HJK  
Lunch provided for Council Members and staff

**1:30 PM – 4:00 PM**

Project Development Committee Meeting  
Room: San Gabriel Ballroom G  
Public Policy Committee Meeting  
Room: Ames Meeting Room

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Council Member Work Session  
Room: San Gabriel Ballroom G

**4:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Room: Ames Meeting Room

**Friday, May 5, 2017**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon**

Council Meeting  
Room: San Gabriel Ballroom HJK

# **Executive Committee Meeting — Agenda**

Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel and Conference Center

Room: Ames

Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 3:30 PM — 6:00 PM

## **Call to Order**

- 1. Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Consideration of February 8, 2017, Minutes — TAB 1 — ACTION ITEM**
- 4. Chair's Report**
  - A. Council Member Absences
  - B. Committee Assignments
  - C. Other Updates
- 5. Executive Director's Report — TAB 2**
  - A. Stipends Approved
  - B. Staff Updates
  - C. FY 2018 Operating Expense Budget Assumptions
  - D. Other Updates
- 6. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion**
- 7. Grants Activities Reports — TAB 3**
  - A. Grants and Projects Update
  - B. Independent Audit Status Report
  - C. Risk Assessment of TCDD Projects
- 8. TCDD Quarterly Financial Report — TAB 4**
- 9. Consideration of Continuation Grant Awards — TAB 5 — ACTION ITEM**
  - A. Texas SILC — “Accessible Transportation Summits”
  - B. Region 17 Education Service Center — “Family Involvement in Schools”
  - C. Family to Family Network — “Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training”
  - D. National Disability Institute — “Understanding Employment Options and Supports”
- 10. Consideration of Review Panel Members — TAB 15 — ACTION ITEM**
- 11. Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

## **Recess**

## **Reconvene**

Thursday, May 4, 2017 4:30 PM — 5:00 PM

- 12. Continuation of Unfinished Business**
- 13. Committee Chair Debriefing**

## **Adjourn**

## **Committee of the Whole Meeting — Agenda**

Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel and Conference Center

Room: San Gabriel Ballroom HJK

Thursday, May 4, 2017, 9:30 AM — 1:00 PM

### **Call to Order**

1. **Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Presentation: Family Based Alternatives and Child Protective Services** — Alex Noble, TCDD Policy Fellow
4. **Federal Affairs Update**
5. **Round Table Discussion of Public Policy Priorities — TAB 6**
  - A. FY 2018 — FY 2019 Appropriations — TAB 7
  - B. Education
  - C. Employment
  - D. Long-Term Services and Supports

### **Adjourn**

# **Project Development Committee Meeting — Agenda**

Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel and Conference Center

Room: San Gabriel Ballroom G

Thursday, May 4, 2017, 1:30 PM — 4:00 PM

## **Call to Order**

- 1. Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Consideration of February 10, 2017, Minutes — TAB 8 — ACTION ITEM**
- 4. Chair's Remarks**
  - A. Member Absences
  - B. Chair's Quarterly Activities
- 5. Member Updates: Reports of Members' quarterly activities**
- 6. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion**
- 7. Staff Reports**
  - A. Status of New Projects
  - B. Project Funds Available
  - C. Other Updates
- 8. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation — TAB 9 — ACTION ITEM**
  - A. State Plan Projects
  - B. Local Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Executive Summary
  - C. Developmental Disabilities Network Partners Collaborative
  - D. Other Discussion Items
- 9. Future Project Funding Priorities — TAB 10 — ACTION ITEM**
- 10. Other Discussion Items**

## **Adjourn**

# **Public Policy Committee Meeting — Agenda**

Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel and Conference Center

Room: Ames

Thursday, May 4, 2017, 1:30 PM — 4:00 PM

## **Call to Order**

- 1. Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Consideration of February 10, 2017, Minutes — TAB 11— ACTION ITEM**
- 4. Chair's Remarks**
  - A. Member Absences
  - B. Chair's Quarterly Activities
- 5. Member Updates: Reports of Members' quarterly activities**
- 6. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion**
- 7. Public Policy Staff Activities — TAB 12**
  - A. State Policy Activities
  - B. State Supported Living Centers Update
  - C. Federal Policy Activities
- 8. Other Discussion Items**

## **Adjourn**

# **Council Meeting — Agenda**

Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel and Conference Center

Room: San Gabriel Ballroom HJK

Friday, May 5, 2017, 9:00 AM –12:00 Noon

## **Call to Order**

- 1. Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Consent Items — ACTION ITEM**
  - A. Consideration of February 9-10, 2017, Minutes — TAB 13
  - B. Excused Absences of Council Members
- 4. Chair's and Executive Director's Report**
  - A. Staff Updates
  - B. Conferences
  - C. State Plan Activities
  - D. Other Discussion
- 5. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation — ACTION ITEM**
  - A. Local Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Executive Summary — TAB 9
  - B. Developmental Disabilities Network Partners Collaborative — TAB 9
  - C. Future Funding Priorities — TAB 10
- 6. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion**
- 7. Presentation: Texas Advocates**
- 8. Communications and Marketing Activities Report — TAB 14**
- 9. Executive Committee Report**
  - A. Grant Awards
    1. Continuation Grant Awards
    2. Stipends
  - B. Grant Activities Report
  - C. TCDD Financial Reports
  - D. New Review Panel Members
  - E. Conflict of Interest
  - F. Other Discussion Items
- 10. Project Development Committee Report**
  - A. Grants and Projects Report
  - B. Other Discussion Items
- 11. Public Policy Committee Report**
  - A. Public Policy Staff Activities
  - B. Other Discussion Items
- 12. State Agency Representatives Quarterly Activities Update**
- 13. Announcements and Updates — TAB 16**

## **Adjourn**

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tab 1

### Background:

Minutes of the February 8, 2017, Executive Committee meeting are included for your review.

### Executive Committee — Agenda Item 3

#### Expected Action:

The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING February 8, 2017 — MINUTES

### Committee Members Present

Mary Durheim, Council Chair  
Gladys Cortez  
Kristen Cox  
Michael Peace  
Lora Taylor

### Council Members Present

John Thomas

### Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive  
Director  
Martha Cantu  
Joanna Cordry  
Cynthia Ellison  
Danny Fikac  
Jessica Ramos  
Joshua Ryf  
Koren Vogel

### Call To Order

The Executive Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, in the Cedar/Cherry Room at the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown, 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, TX 78752. Council Chair Mary Durheim called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

#### 1. **Introductions**

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

#### 2. **Public Comments**

No public comments were offered to the Committee. Committee Member Kristen Cox reported that her son Kyle has recently obtained an internship with State Senator Charles Schwertner's office.

#### 3. **Consideration of Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed and no additions or corrections were noted.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the November 2-3, 2016, Executive Committee meeting as presented.

**MADE BY:** Lora Taylor

**SECOND:** Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously.

#### 4. **Chair's Report**

Council Chair Durheim reviewed expected absences for the Council and Committee meetings which include Dana Perry and Brandon Pharris. She also noted that new designations have been made by the Health and Human Services Commission for the DD Act programs in that agency. Jami Snyder and Juliet Charron (alternate) will represent Title XIX/Medicaid and Lisa Akers-Owen and Sue Fielder (alternate) will represent the



Older Americans Act. Charron and Fielder will attend Friday's meetings and have been through orientation which enables them to vote. Orientation meetings for Snyder and Akers-Owen will be forthcoming.

Durheim reported that she and Executive Director Beth Stalvey attended a meeting in late December with Gaby Fuentes from the Governor's Appointments Office. Despite outreach efforts, only about eight applications have been received to serve on the Council and some of those do not meet membership requirements. It was noted that the DD Act requires statewide geographic representation and membership that reflects the diversity of the state with respect to race and ethnicity and outreach will continue for applications.

#### **5. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Stalvey reviewed stipend awards that were approved during the past quarter to the following applicants:

- Family to Family: Events stipend for up to \$4,500 for 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Resource Fair on January 28, 2017, in Houston.
- Austin Travis County Integral Care: Events stipend for up to \$7,494 for the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference on February 8-9, 2017, in Austin.
- Austin Travis County Integral Care: Speakers stipend for up to \$5,000 for the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference on February 8-9, 2017, in Austin.
- The Arc of Texas: Events stipend for up to \$6,750 for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Inclusion Works Conference on February 12-14, 2017, in Houston.
- Attention Deficit Disorders Association – Southern Region (ADDA-SR): Events stipend for up to \$6,970 for 29<sup>th</sup> Annual ADDA-SR Conference on February 25, 2017, in Houston.
- Jewish Family Services: Speakers stipend for up to \$7,500 for the UP Abilities: Gaming, Technology and ReelAbilities on February 9-13, 2017, in Houston.
- Children's Disabilities Information Coalition: Events stipend for up to \$7,500 for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Disabilities Symposium on March 25, 2017, in El Paso.
- The Arc of Texas: Events stipend for up to \$3,750 for the Legislative Advocacy Training and Advocacy Day at the Capitol on April 6, 2017, in Austin.
- Coalition of Texans with Disabilities: Events stipend for up to \$5,591 for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on April 5-7, 2017, in Austin.

Stalvey provided several updates on TCDD staff. She reported that Sonya Hosey is on extended medical leave and has applied for disability retirement. Interviews will be conducted in February for Grants Management Specialist position vacancies. Stalvey noted that Megan Regis is no longer with TCDD as a Public Policy Specialist. Two interns have been selected to work part-time with TCDD on a contract basis in the public policy and communications areas. Jeremy Cana is a senior at the University of Texas studying Government and Chris Frasier is a senior at St. Edwards studying Environmental

Science and Policy. Stalvey also reported that due to a change in the administrative needs of the agency, Fernando Rodriguez will now serve as an Operations Assistant and will provide more general support to all divisions in addition to grants management and planning. Chair Durham expressed her gratitude to members of the Grants Management division and specifically commended Grants Management Director Cynthia Ellison for additional work during the extended vacancies in that division. Stalvey also noted that although Governor Abbott announced a hiring freeze for state agencies, TCDD should still be able to fill vacancies as needed since our positions are 100% federally funded.

Stalvey reported that the Annual Program Performance Report was submitted on December 31, 2016, and that she will provide highlights of the report at the Council meeting.

The Partners in Policymaking project continues to make progress and is now marketing to the public to recruit applicants. Social media sites are available and the website will be live this week. Applications for class participants will be accepted through May 1, 2017. The Project Advisory Committee will assist project and TCDD staff members in the selection of class participants.

TCDD recently received an upgrade of leased computer equipment with updated software, coordinated through Texas Education Agency. Staff members are expanding their use of the video-conference equipment recently purchased for the conference room including the GoToMeeting software. The Nominating Committee meeting was conducted with this technology and received positive feedback.

The Committee discussed upcoming conferences including the Disability Policy Seminar which takes place in March in Washington, DC and the NACDD Conference which takes place in July in Salt Lake City, UT. Members who wish to attend should contact Stalvey or Durham.

#### **6. Disproportionalities and Disparities**

Executive Director Stalvey reviewed a document on special education disparities for English Language Learner (ELL) students that will be further discussed in the Public Policy and Project Development Committees. She reminded members of the State Plan goal that calls for TCDD to collaborate with three community-based organizations to reduce disparities arising from linguistic and cultural barriers that prevent individuals who are Spanish speaking from receiving services by September 30, 2021. She noted that 7.3% of ELL students receive special education services compared to a national average of 13%. She also referenced a bill filed in the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature that would eliminate the requirement and funding for bilingual special education services and make it optional to provide services in the primary language for schools with 20 or more students speaking that language. Members discussed the outcomes for students who need but do not receive these services and Chair Durham recommended contacting Salvador Hector Ochoa who

is an author and nationally recognized expert on the assessment of culturally and linguistically diverse students for further education on the subject.

It was suggested that a database or repository of information about cultural disparities as they related to people with developmental disabilities would be helpful for members and it was noted that the DD Network Partners have discussed similar resources. Stalvey reported that TCDD has applied to AIDD on behalf of the DD Network to participate in a National Disparity Leadership Academy that focuses on disparities and the application cited the specific topic of disparities of ELL students receiving special education.

**7. Grants Activities Reports**

Grants Management Director Ellison reviewed the Independent Audit Status Report noting that three projects had independent audits during the previous quarter and there were no significant findings. She also reviewed the Risk Assessment of TCDD Projects and reported that the Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project at Volar has been moved to Extensive Risk monitoring due to issues from the recent onsite review. Ellison noted that the information contained in the Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report has been simplified to note which projects received an onsite review, the date of that review, and if the review is complete or documentation is still pending.

**8. TCDD Quarterly Financial Report**

Operations Director Martha Cantu reviewed the FY 2017 TCDD Administrative and Expense budget, noting that expenses are on track for year-to-date expenditures with 22% of the budget spent. The second letter of federal funding for FY 2017 has been received and the final letter is expected in April with a level equal to FY 2016.

Cantu next reviewed the Summary of Funds report and noted that Grants Management staff are working with grantees to ensure that all FY 2015 funds assigned to those projects are spent appropriately because any unspent funds from that fiscal year must be returned to AIDD. Although some funds may be returned, it is expected to be minimal. The report shows a small negative balance for FY 2016 but staff have identified projects that are not expected to spend all allocated funds so the balance will not remain in the negative. The negative balance for FY 2017 will likely not remain because funds are held for planned projects that have not been awarded.

**9. Consideration of New Grant Awards**

TCDD Planning Director Joanna Cordry provided a review of past youth leadership and development projects and discussed the current Youth Leadership Development Request for Proposals (RFP) with funding approved for up to three projects for up to five years. The goal of the RFP is to train 150 people between the ages of 14 and 22 in self-advocacy with at least 5% moving on to advanced training and 10% of attendees continued participation in statewide advocacy organizations.

Nine proposals were received and Planning Specialist Danny Fikac presented the

summary noting that one proposal did not complete the required application process and three proposals were not ranked by the independent review panel or considered eligible for funding. Fikac presented comments from the Independent Review Panel for five ranked proposals. Cordry reviewed the checklists completed by staff which evaluated criteria such as consistency with the TCDD State Plan, reporting and fiscal compliance with previous projects, meeting the needs of under-served populations and geographic areas, and responsiveness to the RFP requirements.

The proposal from SAFE Alliance presented a goal to create an experientially-based youth leadership development program to support transition-aged students (18-22) with developmental disabilities to share information, develop skills, and establish personal plans to become advocates/leaders. Strengths of this proposal included inclusion and input from people with disabilities in its development, promising practices for sustainability, experience in similar projects including components of a nationally recognized program, a detailed work-plan, focus on safety and self-advocacy in interpersonal relationships, and serving diverse populations. Weaknesses cited were a missed opportunity to focus on individuals in the foster care system and the limited target age of 18-22 instead of 14-22 as well as questions about match funding for later years of the project. The checklist completed by TCDD staff did not raise significant concerns for this applicant. The proposal was consistent with the RFP and was noted to be unique because it involves relationship building in addition to training.

The proposal from Volar presented a goal to provide youth with the opportunity and experience to learn and share information, acquire leadership skills, and develop long-range advocacy plans that will empower them to reach their maximum potential and be contributing citizens in their community. It would also partner with organizations to provide training for parents to support the leadership and self-advocacy development of their children. Strengths of the proposal included well rounded and inclusive practices, involvement of parent organizations, youth mentoring youth, strong collaborative efforts from other organizations, and outreach to the colonias. Weaknesses included questionable sustainability following the conclusion of the project, limited scope of a proposal for a 3-day forum, and no inclusion of youth in the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The staff-completed checklist cited concerns with a current Volar grant in spending patterns as well as deficiencies noted in desk audits for 2013, 2014, and 2015. In response to questions from Chair Durham, staff acknowledged that the current project requires staff time “above and beyond” other projects.

The proposal from Mounting Horizons would establish a Young Adults Advocates Leadership (YAAL) club to engage and educate 150 youth with developmental disabilities from area schools to promote sustainable leadership through personal exploration and experiential learning. Strengths include inclusion of people with developmental disabilities on staff and in the PAC, outreach to racially diverse groups, advocacy and

opportunities at multiple levels, and inherent public awareness, outreach, education and advocacy. Weaknesses include ambitious and questionably attainable milestones for the first year, curriculum that has not been specifically used and would need to be modified for people with disabilities, implementation (after training) that would fall on local school districts, and questions of sustainability. The staff-completed checklist cited no concerns, and noted that Mounting Horizons has not had previous projects funded by TCDD. The project proposes to work in Galveston county which is an urban but not inner city setting and does not note specific strategies to do outreach to under-served populations.

The proposal from Texas A&M University proposes a scale-up leadership project which aims to train 200 self-advocates and elevate leadership training to a level that would produce 15-20 advanced and active leaders who can lead change at state/national levels. Strengths include previous success with training in this area, strong collaborative efforts and increased public awareness, highly qualified staff, inclusion of other grantees' program participants in the advanced training, and focus on a rural lower-income area of the state. The main area of weakness for this proposal is that many of the described programs are already in place and this project would expand the number of participants. Staff noted that it would expand training from basic to advanced levels. In the staff-completed checklist, it was noted that previous projects have had a difficult time meeting quorum requirements for PAC meetings and that monthly Requests for Reimbursement reporting was required due to slow expenditure of funds.

The proposal from Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (EPIC) would provide employment training, advocacy training, health and wellness education and a mentoring program for youth aged 16 and older. The major activity would be the creation of an innovative school-year program for 25 students aged 18-22 and a summer program for 25 students aged 16-22 to serve a total of 50 unduplicated participants each year. Strengths include collaboration with non-traditional partners such as the Houston Food Bank which improves opportunities for sustainability, extensive research into participant needs, inclusion of students in the foster care system and a mix of learning and experience that is likely to maintain student interest. The main weakness is the targeted age of participants but this is necessary due to the employment focus. The staff-completed checklist cited no concerns with previous grants and noted a commitment to recruiting and including members of under-served populations.

Committee members discussed the merits of each application and debated the strengths and weaknesses of each application individually and made recommendations for funding.

**MOTION:** To approve up to \$125,000 per year for up to five years in grant funding to SAFE Alliance for a Youth Leadership Development project.

**MADE BY:** Kristen Cox

**SECOND:** Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 1).

**MOTION:** To approve up to \$111,302 per year for up to five years in grant funding to Mounting Horizons for a Youth Leadership Development project.

**MADE BY:** Kristen Cox

**SECOND:** Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 2).

**MOTION:** To approve up to \$125,000 per year for up to five years in grant funding to Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (EPIC) for a Youth Leadership Development project.

**MADE BY:** Lora Taylor

**SECOND:** Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 3).

Chair Durheim directed Grants Management staff to negotiate start dates for these projects based on staff availability.

Cordry next presented a proposal for an Outreach and Development project from Kings and Queens Community Center which was evaluated per policy by TCDD staff members. She noted that although the organization proposes needed supports and services, they are not specific to people with developmental disabilities and does not meet the intent of the RFP. No motion was offered from Committee members.

#### 10. **Consideration of Review Panel Members**

Planning Specialist Fikac presented four names and stated qualifications of individuals who have submitted applications to serve as Independent Review Panel Members. He noted two additional applicants who did not provide sufficient detail in their applications and attempts to contact these individuals were met with no response. Members discussed the applications presented and recommended to add two individuals to the Review Panel list.

**MOTION:** To approve John Morris and Stephens Hesma to be included in the list of potential TCDD Independent Review Panel members.

**MADE BY:** Lora Taylor

**SECOND:** Kristen Cox

The motion passed unanimously. (Attachment 4)

Members also discussed the required content of the application to serve as a member of an Independent Review Panel and asked staff to revise the application to include additional information about qualifications.

**11. Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Committee members reviewed updated conflict of interest disclosure information for Council members and staff. No concerns were noted.

**12. Other Updates**

It was noted that Jason Sabo of Frontera Strategy will present advocacy strategies for the legislative session to the Committee of the Whole.

**Adjourn**

Chair Durham adjourned the Executive Committee at 5:30 PM

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council      Date

# Attachments



**Background:**

Applications were reviewed and an independent review panel was conducted in response to the Youth Leadership Development Request for Proposals. Eight (8) applications were received from the following organizations:

- SAFE Alliance
- Volar Center for Independent Living
- Mounting Horizons, Inc.
- Texas A&M University
- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities (EPIC)
- Imagine Enterprises
- VSA Arts of Texas
- Sign Shares, Inc.

Executive Committee members will receive an email prior to the meeting with the review panel comments. At the meeting, TCDD staff will review a checklist of review criteria for each application prior to Committee discussion.

Per TCDD procedure, staff reviewed and have offered comments on a proposal received for the following Request for Proposal:

- Outreach and Development – Kings and Queens Community Center

The Executive Committee will consider this information and make final decisions about these proposals to approve for final negotiations for these projects.

**Executive Committee — Agenda Item 9****Expected Action:**

The Executive Committee will consider this information and make final decisions on the project proposals.

**Council — Agenda Item 10. A.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee decisions.

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**TO:** Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Danny Fikac, Planning Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Approving New Applications for RFP Review Panelists  
**DATE:** February 8, 2017

TCDD staff received four new applications for new members of TCDD RFP Review Panel, and TCDD staff contacted a previous applicant for additional information. The memo includes the new applicants' name, location and qualifications. As TCDD develops new projects and moves forward with its new five-year plan, it is necessary to continue to add to the eligible panel members in order to have a diverse independent review panel with expertise in various subject matters.

Last Name	First Name	Home City	Qualifications
Haley	Mianne	Georgetown	<p>I am a parent of a 39-year-old special needs adult with ACC, PPD, Asperger's, Non-Verbal Learning Disorder Syndrome, and Bi-Polar with Rage Disorder.</p> <p>I've created a non-profit organization which addresses social and spiritual needs of the special needs community, and homeschooled for 17 years, taught other families' children, and continue to tutor children and special needs adults.</p> <p>My home has been a host home in the HCS waiver program for over 15 years.</p>
John	Morris	Edinburg	<p>I have worked on grants over the past 20 years as well as managed grant projects during my employment. I have reported to state and federal grants that I have had previously. I was on TCDD for 14 years and reviewed proposals for grantees while serving on the Project Development and the Executive Committee</p>
Ezeikel	Niemogha	Dallas	<p>I have 10 years' experience working with deaf &amp; hard of hearing and am a member of Global Deaf Service Project.</p>

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Last Name	First Name	Home City	Qualifications
Hesma	Stephens	Richmond	I am a motivational speaker, trainer & consultant on topics related to safety, patient experience, employee conflicts and self-care. I have been the owner of a safety management and training company for 9 years. In addition, I am a member of the National Speakers Association Houston Chapter and a state advocate for children with special needs in the judicial system. I am the founder of Social Enhancement Exchange (SEE) project and Including Autism for those with communication disorders to improve social skills. I have a child (under the age of 18) with a severe disability.

There were two additional applications with incomplete information. Staff's efforts to contact the applicants were unsuccessful.

**Background:**

➤ **Stipends Grants Applications Approved** — TCDD Policies provide for the Executive Director to approve applications for Events Stipends and Presentation Support Stipends. Three (3) stipend applications were approved during the quarter to the following organizations. The summaries of each are enclosed:

1. **Texas Parent to Parent** for “13<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Parent to Parent Conference” June 17-18, 2017, in San Marcos. (Events Stipend)
2. **Texas Advocates** for the “2017 Texas Advocates Annual Convention” July 28-30, 2017, in San Marcos. (Events Stipend)
3. **American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – Texas Chapter (AAIDD-TX)** for the “42<sup>nd</sup> Annual AAIDD-TX Convention” July 25-28, 2017, in Houston. (Events Stipend)

➤ **Attendance Report** — A quarterly summary of attendance of Council members at meetings is also enclosed.

**Important Terms:**

**Events Stipend Grants:** Organizations may apply for up to \$7500 to pay for conference registration, hotel rooms, attendants, respite, travel expenses, etc. for self-advocates and their family members to attend conferences and other events.

**Speakers Stipend Grants:** Sponsoring organization of the meeting, conference, workshop, or seminar may apply for up to \$7500 per event for transportation, meals, and lodging for speakers, expenses for an attendant, respite care or other accommodations, as well as speaker fees.

**Executive Committee — Agenda Item 5****Expected Action:**

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and may provide guidance to staff.

**Council — Agenda Item 9. A.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee discussion.

# CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS

## Executive Director Review

ITEM: 1

Date: 4/4/17

Organization: Texas Parent to Parent

City, State: Austin, TX

Federal: \$7,500

Match: \$3,720

Event: Conference: 13th Annual Texas Parent to Parent Conference

Date: June 16–17, 2017

Location/Hotel: Embassy Suites

City, State: San Marcos, Texas

Previously Funded: Yes: 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005

Comments: We will provide information to parents, siblings, and youth/young adults with disabilities on advocacy, special education law, Medicaid Waiver Programs, transition to adulthood, self-determination, resources, and health care issues.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:

Lodging — 45 individuals (45 @ \$85/individual for 2 nights) = \$7,500.00

**Total lodging cost is \$7,650, difference in match**

**Total cost (federal): = \$7,500.00**

Applicant match covers: conference materials:

Child Care — 45 individuals (15 providers @ \$115/day for 2 days + \$100 Supplies) = \$3,570.00

Lodging — 45 individuals (difference from above of \$150) = \$150.00

**Total cost (match): = \$3,720.00**

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to event.

Approved: ☒ yes ☐ no Beth Stalvey

Digitally signed by Beth Stalvey  
DN: cn=Beth Stalvey, o, ou, email=beth.stalvey@todd.texas.gov, c=US  
Date: 2017.04.05 12:37:07 -0500

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

# CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS

## Executive Director Review

ITEM: 2

Date: 4/12/17

Organization: Texas Advocates

City, State: Austin, TX

Federal: \$7,448

Match: \$829

Event: Conference: 2017 Texas Advocates Annual Convention

Date: July 28–30, 2017

Location/Hotel: Embassy Suites

City, State: San Marcos, Texas

Previously Funded: Yes: 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1993, 1992, 1991, and 1990

Comments: The Texas Advocates Conference will provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn about self-advocacy and self-determination through keynote speakers, workshops and social events.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:

Lodging (double occupancy) — 56 individuals (56 @ \$66.50/night for two days) = \$7,448.00

**Total cost (federal): = \$7,448.00**

Applicant match covers: conference materials:

Registration — 56 individuals (56 @ \$14.80/individual) = \$828.00

**Total cost (match): = \$828.00**

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to event.

Approved: ☒ yes ☐ no Beth Stalvey

Digitally signed by Beth Stalvey  
DN: cn=Beth Stalvey, o=CU, email=beth.stalvey@todd.texas.gov, c=US  
Date: 2017.04.12 15:45:45 -0500

Date: 4/12/17

Comments:

# CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS

## Executive Director Review

ITEM: 3

Date: 4/12/17

Organization: American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities-Texas Chapter (AAIDD-TX)

City, State: Austin, TX

Federal: \$7,260

Match: \$2,794

Event: Conference: 42nd Annual AAIDD-TX Convention

Date: July 25-28, 2017

Location: Westin Galleria

City, State: Houston, Texas

Previously Funded: Yes: 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2005, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000

Comments: The convention's purpose is to provide attendees with information about best practices, technology, leadership, civil rights, and self-determination so that people with developmental disabilities can be better supported and empowered.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:

Lodging — 12 individuals (12 @ \$85/night for 3 nights) = \$3,060

Total lodging cost = \$163.63/individual for 3 nights for a total of \$5,854.68 (the remainder will be met by matching funds)

Registration — 15 individuals (15 @ \$280/individual) = \$4,200

**Total cost (federal): = \$7,260.00**

Applicant match covers: conference materials:

Lodging — 12 individuals (\$5,854-\$3,060 = \$2,794) = \$2,794

**Total cost (match): = \$2,794.00**

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to event.

Approved: ☒ yes ☐ no Beth Stalvey

Digitally signed by Beth Stalvey  
DN: cn=Beth Stalvey, o=AAIDD, email=beth.stalvey@aaidd.texas.gov, c=US  
Date: 2017.04.14 18:08:22 -0500

**Date: 4-14-17**

Comments:

**TCDD Quarterly Council Meeting Council Member Attendance Report February 2017 to May 2015**

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>February 2017</b>	<b>November 2016</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>May 2016</b>	<b>February 2016</b>	<b>November 2015</b>	<b>August 2015</b>	<b>May 2015</b>
<b>H. Adkins</b>	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Present
<b>K. Blackmon</b>	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>K. Clark</b>	Present	Excused Absence	Excused Absence	Present Thursday Excused Absence Friday	Excused Absence	Present Thursday Excused Absence Friday	Excused Absence	Present
<b>G. Cortez</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>K. Cox</b>	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>M. Delgado</b>	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Excused Absence
<b>M. Durham</b>	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Excused Absence Thursday Present Friday	Present	Present	Present
<b>S. Gersuk</b>	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Excused Absence	Present
<b>R. Mason</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>S. McAvoy</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present Thursday Excused Absence Friday	Present



Council Member	February 2017	November 2016	August 2016	May 2016	February 2016	November 2015	August 2015	May 2015
<b>M. Peace</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present Thursday Excused Absence Friday	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>D. Perry</b>	Excused Absence	Present	Excused Absence	Excused Absence	Present	Excused Absence	Excused Absence	Excused Absence
<b>B. Pharris</b>	Excused Absence	Excused Absence	Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>D. Taylor</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present Thursday Excused Absence Friday	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>L. Taylor</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>J. Thomas</b>	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence
<b>R. Tisch</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present Thursday Excused Absence Friday	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>DRT (AI)</b>	Present	Present Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Present

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>February 2017</b>	<b>November 2016</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>May 2016</b>	<b>February 2016</b>	<b>November 2015</b>	<b>August 2015</b>	<b>May 2015</b>
<b>UT CDS</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>A&amp;M CDD</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Present
<b>HHSC — Older Americans Act</b>	Excused Absence Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>TWC</b>	Present Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Present Thursday Excused Absence Friday	Present	Present	Present
<b>DSHS</b>	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>HHSC — Medicaid</b>	Excused Absence Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present Thursday Excused Absence Friday	Present	Present
<b>TEA</b>	Present Excused Absence	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused Absence	Present	Present

**Background:**

Grants Management Staff will review these reports:

- **Independent Audit Status Report** — summarizes the status of desk reviews of annual independent audits submitted to grantees.
- **Grants Risk Assessment of TCDD Projects & Quarterly Update Report** — summarizes the risk assessment matrix for considerations of continuation grant awards and provides more detail about monitoring activities for all TCDD funded projects.
- **Grants Monitoring** TCDD Grants Management staff conduct ongoing monitoring activities of each project. The following onsite reviews were conducted during the preceding quarter. Organizations showing “complete” have all documentation provided. Staff are still working with grantees to obtain all necessary documents for those showing “pending”.

**Onsite Reviews for Quarter:**

- Volar Center for Independent Living (11/30/16) – Pending
- Texas Tech University Higher Education (11/15/16) – Complete
- Texas Tech University Project SEARCH (11/15/16) – Complete
- Education Service Center, Region 17 Families in Schools (11/16/16) – Complete
- Texas Statewide Independent Living Council (1/9/17) – Complete
- Epilepsy Foundation of Texas (1/10/17) – Complete
- Any Baby Can (1/30/17) – Complete
- Texas Workforce Commission (2/7/17) – Complete

**Executive Committee — Agenda Item 7****Expected Action:**

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and may provide guidance to staff.

**Council — Agenda Item 9. B.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee discussion.

## Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities Independent Audit Status Report

Grantee	Fiscal Year End	Date Received	Audit Firm	Exceptions Noted	Recommendations/ Resolutions
Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Inc.	6/30/2016	11/10/2016	BDO USA, LLP	None.	None/Done.
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services	8/31/2015	2/8/2017	State of Texas State Auditor	None.	None/Done.
Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc.	12/31/2015	11/28/2016	McConnell & Jones LLP	None.	None/Done.
Epilepsy Foundation Texas	12/31/2015	1/24/2017	Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC	None.	Forward for Desk Review.
Reaching Families Advocacy and Support Group	12/31/2016	4/1/2017	Kristi L. Allen, CPA	None.	Forward for Desk Review.

Key: Audits were submitted to TCDD during the fiscal year (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016). Independent Audit Reports are due not later than nine months after the end of the grantee's fiscal year(s) for which an audit is performed. This document includes audits that were received after the due date, but during the fiscal year.

Monday, April 3, 2017

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Fiscal Year End</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Audit Firm</b>	<b>Exceptions Noted</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>
Region 17 ESC	8/31/2016	12/19/2016	Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP	None.	None/Done.
Texas Tech University	8/31/2016	3/13/2017	State of Texas State Auditor	None.	None/Done.

Key: Audits were submitted to TCDD during the fiscal year (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016). Independent Audit Reports are due not later than nine months after the end of the grantee's fiscal year(s) for which an audit is performed. This document includes audits that were received after the due date, but during the fiscal year.

Monday, April 3, 2017

## RISK ASSESSMENT OF TCDD PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE MAY 2017

Number	Grantee	TCDD Fund Amount	Other Federal Fund Amount	Date of Last Onsite	Next Onsite Due By	Risk Activity	Risk Code
1.	Region 17 ESC (FIS)	\$300,000	\$1,687,806	11/16/16	2017	2	Extensive Risk
2.	DARS (Higher Education)	\$225,000	\$488 million	12/15/15	2016	2	Extensive Risk
3	National Disability Institute (Understanding Employment Options and Supports)	\$150,000	\$2,481,931 million	8/31/16	2017	1, 2, 7	Extensive Risk
4.	Code Blue: Volar Center for Independent Living (BC3)	\$150,000	\$203,823	11/30/16	2017	2,3	Extensive Risk
5.	Code Blue: Texas A&M University (Higher Education Collaborative)	\$372,927	\$1.55 billion	Does not apply	2017	2,3	Extensive Risk
6.	Texas Tech University (Project SEARCH)	\$174,346	\$35 million	11/15/16	Does not apply	2,3	Considerable Risk
7.	Code Blue: Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center (dba Community Healthcare) (BC3)	\$139,440	\$4,663,336	2/11/2015	2017	2, 3, 5	Considerable Risk
8.	Imagine Enterprises (Project SPEAK)	\$125,000	\$725,000	12/3/15	Does not apply	2	Considerable Risk
9.	VSA Arts of Texas (Self-Advocates as Speakers)	\$125,000	\$10,000	10/26/15	Does not apply	2	Considerable Risk
10.	Code Blue: Texas Advocates (Self-Advocates Grassroots Community Organizing)	\$100,000	\$0	7/13/2015	2017	2, 5	Considerable Risk

Number	Grantee	TCDD Fund Amount	Other Federal Fund Amount	Date of Last Onsite	Next Onsite Due By	Risk Activity	Risk Code
11.	Texas State Independent Living Council (Health and Fitness)	\$150,000	\$520,587	7/19/16	2018	2	Considerable Risk
12.	Light and Salt Association (Culturally Appropriate Family Support)	\$75,000	\$448,606	1/26/16	2019	2	Moderate Risk
13.	Reaching Families Advocacy and Support Group (Culturally Appropriate Family Support)	\$79,606	\$0	4/21/16	2019	2	Moderate Risk
14.	Disability Rights Texas (Stakeholder Training on Guardianship Alternatives)	\$40,000	\$8 million	4/27/16	2018	2	Moderate Risk
15.	Paso del Norte Children's Development Center (Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training Project)	\$75,000	\$0	11/28/16	2018	1, 2	Moderate Risk
16.	Family to Family (Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training Project)	\$75,000	\$57,000	10/4/16	2018	1,2	Moderate Risk
17.	Easter Seals Central Texas (Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training Project)	\$64,394	\$5.7million	11/21/16	2018	1, 2	Moderate Risk
18.	EveryChild, Inc. (Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows)	\$67,500	\$441,125	12/13/16	TBD	1, 2	Moderate Risk
							Low Risk

Number	Grantee	TCDD Fund Amount	Other Federal Fund Amount	Date of Last Onsite	Next Onsite Due By	Risk Activity	Risk Code
19.	Imagine Enterprises (Outreach and Development)	\$10,000	\$725,000	Does not apply	Does not apply	Does not apply	Monitor and Accept
	Stipends	See stipend report in Tab 4 Financial Reports	Does not apply	Does not apply	Does not apply	Does not apply	Final Report Only

**Color Coded Blue grantees indicate additional monitoring strategies this quarter.**

\*Increased risk due to the number of sub-awards and no previous audit.

#### Risk Color Coded Key

**RED** — Extensive Risk Management (all levels of control plus audit)

**YELLOW** — Considerable Risk Management (most levels of control plus independent review by CPA)

**GREEN** — Moderate Risk (operating, monitoring controls, agreed upon procedures engagement by CPA)

**GRAY** — Low Risk (basic monitoring only)

**WHITE** — Monitor or Accept

#### Risk Activities Numbers Key

1 – New Grantee

2 – Awards within Award

3 – Funding Issues

4 – Compliance Issues

5 – Performance Issues

6 – Legal Actions

7 – Fiscal Office Out of State

8 – No Prior Audit

#### TCDD Risk Matrix for Grants Monitoring Fiscal Year 2016

Risk Activities	Less than \$75,999 Award Amount	\$76,000 to \$199,999 Award Amount	\$200,000 to \$499,999 Award Amount	\$500,000 Plus Award Amount
1. New Grantee (i.e., no previous project or no project within 2 year period)	LH	MH	HH	HH
2. Awards within Award (e.g., consultants, presenters, sub-contractors, etc.)	LH	MH	HH	HH
3. Funding Issues (e.g., budget/procurement concerns, match, sustainability, etc.)	LM	LM	MM	HM
4. Compliance Issues (e.g., OMB, UGMS, TCDD policy, oversight issues, etc.)	LM	LM	MM	HM
5. Performance Issues (e.g., unmet goals, milestones, special conditions, etc.)	LM	LM	MM	HM
6. Legal Actions	LL	LL	ML	HL
7. Fiscal Office Located Out-Of-State	LL	LL	ML	HL
8. No Audit Prior To Grant Award	LL	LL	ML	HL



**Risk Matrix Color Coded Key:** 1<sup>st</sup> letter denotes impact; 2<sup>nd</sup> letter denotes probability.

**HM, HH** — Extensive Risk (all levels of control plus audit)

**MM, MH, HL** — Considerable Risk (most levels of control plus independent review by CPA)

**LH, ML** — Moderate Risk (operating/monitoring controls plus agreed upon procedures by CPA)

**LL, LM** — Acceptable Risk (basic monitoring only)

**Risk Management Plan Color Coded Key:**

**RED** — Audit work performed and the Executive Director performs oversight via quarterly report\* provided to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.

**YELLOW** — Department heads reporting to Executive Director perform oversight functions to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.

**GREEN** — Department staff perform oversight functions to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.

**GRAY** — Department staff perform basic oversight functions to ensure controls are in place.

**Annual Audit or Review Determination Color Coded Key:**

**RED** — Red indicates areas to be audited or reviewed by independent CPA.

**YELLOW** — Yellow indicates areas to be covered through oversight, supervisory and operating controls with guidance from the contracted internal audit services provider.

**GREEN** — Green indicates areas to be covered through staff oversight with guidance from the contracted internal audit services provider as needed.

**GRAY** — Gray indicates areas to be covered through basic staff oversight and reporting.

**Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report provided to E.D. and Council quarterly for review. No risk activities means monitoring strategies will be performed at the lowest level under the award amount. NOTE: Risk Matrix reviewed annually with TCDD staff and Internal Auditor; updated when needed.**

## Monitoring Strategies Fiscal Year 2016

### Stipends (\$7,500 or less):

Website instructions  
Technical support (Budget Support Specialist)

Special Conditions (GMD letter)  
Review FROE and other reports submitted

### Mini-Grants (\$10,000 to \$24,999):

Orientation  
Technical support (Senior Specialist)  
RAR & Supplemental Report  
RAR Documentation Review — Six Months

Program Performance Review — Six Months  
Final Program Performance Report  
Approvals (e.g., dissemination, etc.)

### Level 1 — GRAY

Orientation  
Onsite Review — Initial  
Program Performance Review — Annual  
RAR Documentation Review  
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)

Project Advisory Committee Meetings  
Final Program Performance Report  
Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)

### Level 2 — GREEN

Orientation  
Onsite Review — Initial and 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
Program Performance Review — Quarterly  
RAR Documentation Review  
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)

Project Advisory Committee Meetings  
Final Program Performance Report  
Agreed upon Procedures Engagements CPA  
Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)

### Level 3 — YELLOW

Orientation  
Onsite Review — Initial, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years  
Program Performance Review — Quarterly  
RAR Documentation Review  
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)  
Project Advisory Committee Meeting

Final Program Performance Report  
Independent Review by CPA — Annual (A-133 Audit at \$500k or more)  
Project Staff Meeting (1 time per year)  
Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)

### Level 4 — RED

Orientation  
Onsite Review — Initial and Annual  
Program Performance Review — Quarterly  
RAR Documentation Review  
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)  
Project Advisory Committee Meetings

Final Program Performance Report  
A-133 Audit — Annual (Independent under \$500k)  
Audit Desk Review — Annual  
Project Staff Meeting (2 times per year)  
Interim Program Performance Report

## Additional Monitoring Strategies for Grant Projects

To be selected and implemented on an as needed basis:

- Re-orientation,
- Add milestones or special conditions,
- Move up to the next level of monitoring (see above tables),
- Payment holds (reimbursement only no advance or no reimbursement and no advance),
- Require additional onsite reviews.

**Background:**

The **Quarterly Financial Report** is included for review by the Executive Committee and Council and includes the following information:

- **FY 2017 Expense Budget** — This report compares the approved annual budget for fiscal year 2017 (Oct. 1, 2016, thru Sept. 30, 2017) to actual dollars spent and the balance to date. The balance shows that money spent is within the approved annual budget adopted by Council. The Expense Report shows six months spent.
  - **Summary of Funds FY 2015-2018** — The report summarizes funds budgeted from the federal award for each fiscal year and shows funds available per category and funds spent to date. The color coded categories on the summary correspond to the color coded pie chart, which shows the percent of each category spent to date relative to the federal award. A projected balance allows funds available to be used by Council for grants and projects.
- Note:** Spent funds are tied to the federal fiscal year grant awarded to TCDD regardless of whether those funds are spent during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> year when they are available.
- **Current Grantees** — The current grantees represents projects scheduled to end in years 2017-2021.
  - **Stipends Expenditures** — Provides a summary of funds awarded or expended for each stipend grant recipient, the number of individuals attending the conference or seminar who benefited from those stipend funds, and how many of those participants received TCDD stipend support previously from that organization. Provided is information for stipends for FY 2016 and FY2017.

**Notes:**

1. The TCDD fiscal year is the federal fiscal year: October 1 through September 30.
2. The DD Act allows two federal fiscal years for initial awards/assignment of funds, and allows three federal fiscal years for final expenditure/spending of funds.

**Executive Committee — Agenda Item 8**
**Expected Action:**

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and may provide guidance to staff.

**Council — Agenda Item 9. C.**
**Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report on Executive Committee discussion.

**TCDD FY 17 Admin and Expense Budget — October 1, 2016 thru March 31, 2017**

<b>Expenses (Council Operations)</b>	<b>Yearly Budget</b>	<b>6 Months Expended</b>	<b>Balance - 6 Months Remaining</b>
Personnel (17 FTEs)	no data	no data	no data
Salaries	\$1,123,791	\$508,092	\$615,699
Benefits	\$400,971	\$181,908	\$219,063
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$1,524,762</b>	<b>\$690,000</b>	<b>\$834,762</b>
Operating	no data	no data	no data
Professional Services <sup>1</sup>	\$80,462	\$22,348	\$58,114
Out-of-State Travel <sup>2</sup>	\$21,500	\$683	\$20,817
In-State Travel <sup>3</sup>	\$60,750	\$22,814	\$37,936
Supplies	\$12,000	\$6,810	\$5,190
Utilities	\$32,000	\$10,245	\$21,755
Rent, Building, Space	\$69,989	\$33,586	\$36,403
Rent, Computers, Equip <sup>4</sup>	\$40,000	\$12,639	\$27,361
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other OE <sup>5</sup>	\$117,317	\$42,502	\$74,815
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$434,018</b>	<b>\$151,629</b>	<b>\$282,389</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Balance</b>
no data	\$1,958,780	\$841,629	\$1,117,151
Admin Reim to TEA	\$50,000	43.0%	no data
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,008,780</b>	<b>\$891,629</b>	<b>no data</b>

**Notes:**

- 1) Auditor: \$37,700/\$9,675; CPA Desk Reviews: \$9,000/\$6,150; Legal Services: \$3,000/\$495; Web Hosting: \$1,800/\$750; Data Center Services: \$0/\$1,450; Other Professional Services: \$15,000/\$0; Reviewers: \$3,000/\$3,829; DD Suite: \$7,5000/\$0.
- 2) Travel: Out-of-State Council: \$10,560 /\$0; Out-of-State Staff: \$10,940 /\$683.
- 3) Travel: In-State Council: \$38,750 /\$17,391; In-State Staff: \$22,000 /\$5,423.
- 4) Computer lease: \$9,000/\$3,704; AV Equipment: \$26,464/\$7,013; Copier: \$4,536/\$1,890.
- 5) Other OE: NACDD Dues: \$20,500/\$20,625; Interpreter services, registration fees, other training, maintenance, advertising, postage, printing, software, furniture, non-cap equip, security, and janitorial services: \$21,877.

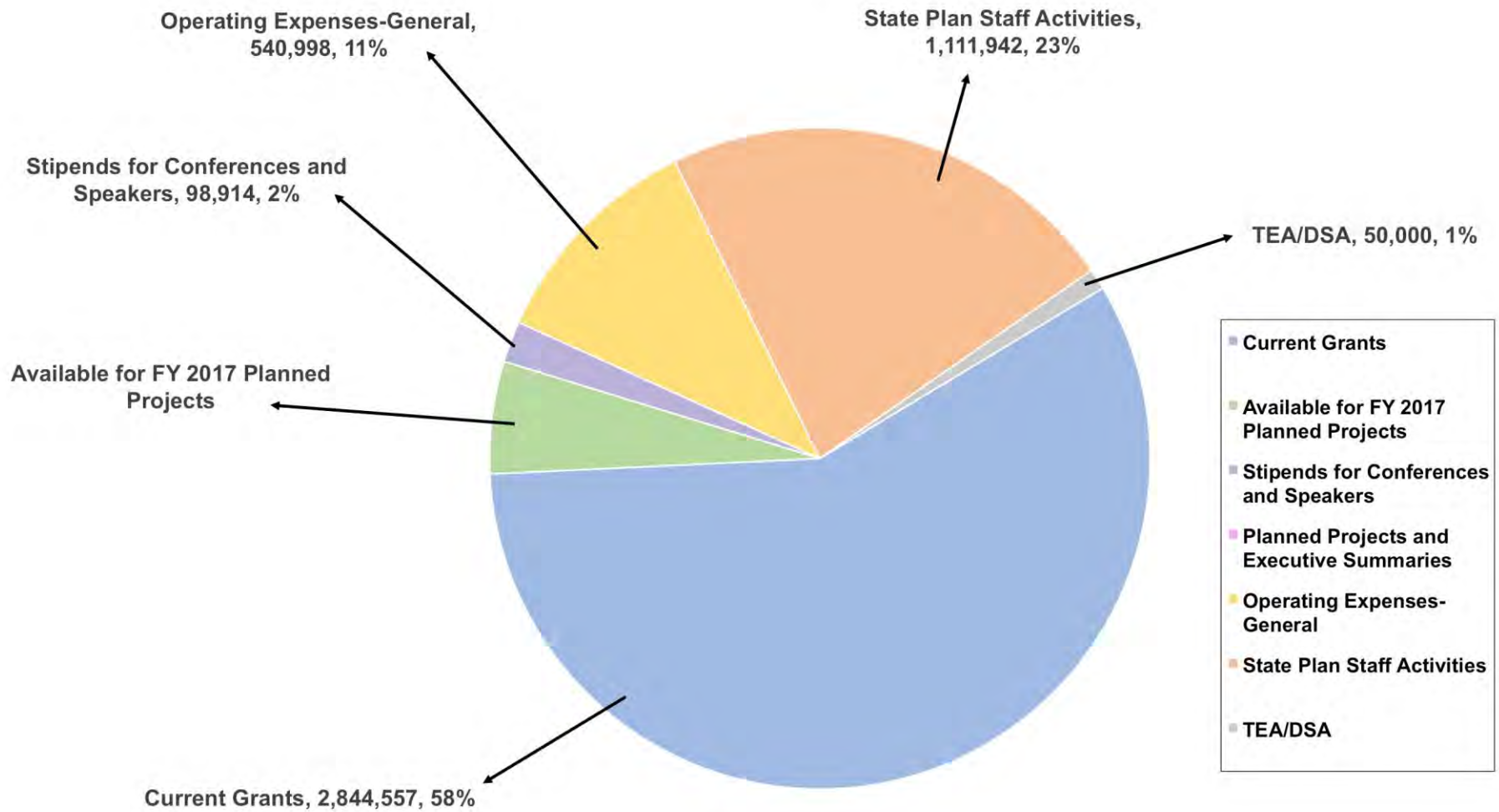
## TCDD Summary of Funds Fiscal Years 2015 to 2018 through April 2017

Fiscal Year and Award Period	Fiscal Year 2015	Pie Chart Fiscal Year 2016	Projected Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2018
(2 years to assign to grantees; 3 years to spend)	10/1/2014 to 9/30/2017	10/1/2015 to 9/30/2018	10/1/2016 to 9/30/2019	10/1/2016 to 9/30/2020
<b>Federal Award:</b>	\$4,742,116	\$4,916,387	\$4,767,409 <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$4,767,409</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b> Council Approved Operating Budget	\$1,646,128	\$1,803,464	\$1,958,780	<b>\$2,009,200</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b> Actual General <sup>2</sup>	\$516,779	\$540,998	\$386,556	<b>\$0</b>
<b>State Plan:</b> Staff Activities <sup>3</sup>	\$1,017,468	\$1,111,942	\$662,609	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses Expended:</b>	\$1,534,247	\$1,653,940	\$1,049,165	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TEA/DSA:</b> Administrative Cost to TEA/DSA	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Grants:</b> Funds Available for Grants	\$2,998,174	\$3,088,447	\$2,633,629	<b>\$2,583,209</b>
<b>Grants:</b> Current Grants	\$2,983,600	\$2,844,557	\$2,498,148	<b>\$2,045,780</b>
<b>Stipends:</b> Funds Available for Stipends and Translation Services (\$25,000)	\$75,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	<b>\$125,000</b>
<b>Stipends:</b> Current Stipends	\$60,830	\$98,914	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Planned Projects:</b> Executive Summaries (see priority list) <sup>4</sup>	\$0	\$0 <sup>6</sup>	\$450,900	<b>\$655,000</b>
<b>To Be Assigned:</b> Balance to assign to grants or give back <sup>5</sup>	\$574 Assign by 9/30/16 Spend by 9/30/2017	\$269,976 Assign by 9/30/17 Spend by 9/30/2018	\$79,557 Assign by 9/30/18 Spend by 9/30/2019	<b>\$86,986</b> Assign by 9/30/19 Spend by 9/30/2020

Notes:

- 1) Fiscal Year 2017 award is a projected amount.
- 2) Operating Expenses: General is 16% of Total Personnel plus Total Operating Expenses (See Fiscal Year 2016 Admin and Expense Budget report in TAB 4).
- 3) Operating Expenses: State Plan (Staff Activities) is 84% of Total Personnel (See Fiscal Year 2016 Admin and Expense Budget report in TAB 4).
- 4) See Priority List for Planned Projects and Amounts.
- 5) Funds to be reassigned or returned to AIDD.
- 6) Planned Projects in Fiscal Year 2016 were moved to Fiscal Year 2017.
- 7) Numbers in **color-coded blue** represent projected numbers.

## Fiscal Year 2016 Funds Spent and To Be Spent



## CURRENT GRANTEES REPORT MAY 2017

Grantee Name	Project Period	Year of Project	Project Title	Awarded Amount	Expended Amount	Remaining Balance
Imagine Enterprises Inc	5/1/2013 - 4/30/2017	4 of 4	Self-Advocacy as Speakers-2	\$125,000	\$94,881	\$30,119
VSA Arts of Texas	5/1/2013 - 4/30/2017	4 of 4	Self-Advocacy as Speakers-1	\$125,000	\$99,324	\$25,676
Texas Workforce Commission (formally DARS)*	9/1/2016 - 4/30/2017	5 of 5	Higher Education-3	\$194,840	\$64,321	\$130,519
Christopher Frasquieri	2/13/2017 - 5/31/2017	1 of 0	Public Policy Intern (Contract)-3	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Jeremy Cana	2/6/2017 - 5/31/2017	1 of 0	Public Policy Intern (Contract)-2	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Texas Center for Disability Studies	9/1/2015 - 8/31/2017	2 of 2	Support for Advisory Committee Member Travel	\$39,070	\$6,774	\$32,296
Texas Tech University	10/1/2012 - 9/30/2017	5 of 5	Project SEARCH	\$174,346	\$11,858	\$162,488
Imagine Enterprises Inc	10/1/2016 - 9/30/2017	1 of 1	Outreach & Development-16	\$10,000	\$4,188	\$5,812
no data	no data	no data	<b>Subtotal 2017</b>	<b>\$672,256</b>	<b>\$283,346</b>	<b>\$388,910</b>
Texas Advocates	4/1/2015 - 3/31/2018	2 of 3	Self Advocate Community Organizing	\$100,000	\$51,147	\$48,853
Region 17 ESC	6/1/2013 - 5/31/2018	4 of 5	Families in Schools	\$300,000	\$162,375	\$137,625
National Disability Institute	6/1/2016 - 5/31/2018	1 of 2	Understanding Employment Options & Support Training	\$150,000	\$34,136	\$115,864
Austin Ribbon & Computer Supplies Inc.	9/1/2015 - 8/31/2018	2 of 3	Targeted Online Training (Contract)	\$10,500	\$0	\$10,500
EveryChild, Inc.	10/1/2016 - 9/30/2018	1 of 2	Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows-3	\$67,500	\$20,211	\$47,289
no data	no data	no data	<b>Subtotal 2018</b>	<b>\$628,000</b>	<b>\$267,869</b>	<b>\$360,131</b>
Disability Rights Texas	2/1/2016 - 1/31/2019	1 of 3	Stakeholder Training on Guardianship Alternatives	\$40,000	\$16,305	\$23,695
Community Healthcore	9/1/2014 - 8/31/2019	4 of 5	Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-2	\$131,882	\$34,160	\$97,722
Volar Center for Independent Living	10/1/2014 - 9/30/2019	4 of 5	Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-3	\$150,000	\$39,596	\$110,404



Grantee Name	Project Period	Year of Project	Project Title	Awarded Amount	Expended Amount	Remaining Balance
Light & Salt Association	11/1/2015 - 10/31/2019	2 of 4	Culturally Appropriate Family Supports-1	\$75,000	\$20,113	\$54,887
no data	no data	no data	<b>SUBTOTAL-2018</b>	<b>\$396,882</b>	<b>\$110,174</b>	<b>\$286,708</b>
Reaching Families Advocacy and Support Group	2/1/2016 - 1/31/2020	2 of 4	Culturally Appropriate Family Supports-2	\$71,072	\$12,378	\$58,694
no data	no data	no data	<b>Subtotal 2020</b>	<b>\$70,606</b>	<b>\$55,317</b>	<b>\$15,289</b>
Texas State Independent Living Council	6/1/2016 - 5/31/2021	1 of 5	Accessible Transportation Project	\$150,000	\$118,944	\$31,056
Family to Family Network Inc	8/1/2016 - 7/31/2021	1 of 5	Leadership Development & Advocacy Trng-2	\$75,000	\$25,931	\$49,069
Johnson Applied Solutions, LLC	9/1/2016 - 8/31/2021	1 of 5	Partners in Policymaking (Contract)	\$150,000	\$94,822	\$55,178
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center	9/1/2016 - 8/31/2021	1 of 5	Leadership Development & Advocacy Trng-1	\$75,000	\$22,137	\$52,863
Easter Seals Central Texas	9/1/2016 - 8/31/2021	1 of 5	Leadership Development & Advocacy Trng-3	\$64,394	\$13,753	\$50,641
no data	no data	no data	<b>Subtotal 2021:</b>	<b>\$514,394</b>	<b>\$275,587</b>	<b>\$238,807</b>
Texas A&M University	3/1/2017 - 2/28/2022	1 of 5	Higher Education Collaborative	\$372,927	\$0	\$372,927
no data	no data	no data	<b>Subtotal 2022:</b>	<b>\$372,927</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$372,927</b>
no data	no data	no data	<b>Grand Totals:</b>	<b>\$2,655,531</b>	<b>\$949,354</b>	<b>\$1,706,177</b>

\*DARS project transferred to TX Workforce Commission (TWC) as of 9/1/16.

## Stipend Expenditures Report May 2017

<b>Fiscal Year End 9-30-16 Organizations</b>	<b>Event Month</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>People Served</b>	<b>People Previously Served</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
Volar Center for Independent Living	October 2015	\$6,000	55	18	No
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities	November 2015	\$1,330	46	0	Yes
Texas Center for Disability Studies	November 2015	\$1,400	5	0	No
ADDA-SR	February 2016	\$5,970	51	0	No
Austin Travis County Integral Care	February 2016	\$6,000	3	0	Yes
Austin Travis County Integral Care	February 2016	\$6,000	24	7	No
The Arc of Texas	February 2016	\$4,200	37	4	No
Children's Disabilities Information Coalition	March 2016	\$2,000	5	0	No
Family to Family Network Inc	March 2016	\$3,930	131	0	No
Texas State Independent Living Council	April 2016	\$6,000	23	9	No
Texas Parent to Parent	June 2016	\$6,000	38	9	No
American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter (AAIDD- TX)	July 2016	\$3,660	9	3	No
Texas Advocates	August 2016	\$5,950	50	0	No
Down Syndrome Diagnosis Network (DSDN)	September 2016	\$2,471	3	0	No
Providers Alliance for Community Services of Texas (PACSTX)	September 2016	\$7,500	5	0	Yes
The Texas Tribune	September 2016	\$4,282	5	1	No
Totals:		\$72,693	490	51	

<b>Fiscal Year End 9-30-17 Organizations</b>	<b>Event Month</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>People Served</b>	<b>People Previously Served</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
Helpful Interventions	October 2016	\$3,750	2	0	Yes
Helpful Interventions	October 2016	\$1,486	17	2	No
NAMI Texas	October 2016	\$1,875	10	0	No
Texas Center for Disability Studies	October 2016	\$0	0	0	No
Texas Center for Disability Studies	October 2016	\$4,000	1	0	Yes
The Arc of Greater Houston	November 2016	\$375	15	5	No
Volar Center for Independent Living	Nov-2016	5,379	55	5	No
Family to Family Network Inc	January 2017	\$4,500	150	22	No
ADDA-SR	February 2017	5,688	46	0	No
Austin Travis County Integral Care	February 2017	4,812	38	0	No
Austin Travis County Integral Care	February 2017	5,000	1	0	Yes
Jewish Family Services of Houston	February 2017	7,500	1	0	Yes
The Arc of Texas	February 2017	6,345	21	7	No
Children's Disabilities Information Coalition	March 2017	7,500			No
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities	April 2017	5,591	no data	no data	No
The Arc of Texas	April 2017	3,750			No
Texas Parent to Parent	June 2017	7,500	no data	no data	No

<b>Fiscal Year End 9-30-17 Organizations</b>	<b>Event Month</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>People Served</b>	<b>People Previously Served</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter (AAIDD-TX)	July 17	7,260			No
Texas Advocates	July 17	7,448	no data	no data	No
Totals:		\$89,759	357	417	

## Consideration of Continuation Grant Awards

Tab 5

### Background:

Executive Summaries for four (4) current grant projects that are eligible for continuation funding are enclosed for consideration by the Committee. Grants monitoring strategies are noted under staff recommendations which follow the grants risk assessment report:

- A. Texas SILC — “Accessible Transportation Summits”
- B. Region 17 Education Service Center — “Family Involvement in Schools”
- C. Family to Family Network — “Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training”
- D. National Disability Institute — “Understanding Employment Options and Supports”
- E. At the August meeting, staff expect to bring five (5) projects to be considered for continuation funding:
  - 1. Easter Seals of Central Texas — “Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training”
  - 2. Light and Salt — “Culturally Appropriate Family Supports”
  - 3. Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center — “Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training”
  - 4. Texas Advocates — “Grassroots Community Organizing”
  - 5. Volar Center for Independent Living — “Building Community Capacity through Collaboration”

### Executive Committee — Agenda Item 9

#### Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will consider this information and make final decisions on the project proposals.

### Council — Agenda Item 9. A.

#### Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee decisions.

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

**ITEM: A**

**Date:** 5/3/2017

**Grantee:** Texas Statewide Independent Living Council (TX SILC)

**Year:** 2 of 3

**Project Title:** Accessible Transportation Summits

**Project Location:** Waco

**Website:** txsilc.org

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The intent of the Accessible Transportation Summits RFP is for a project to provide opportunities for a wide range of community organizations, agencies, and individuals to come together in learning environment where they can share as well as receive technical assistance and information from recognized experts so they can create change in their communities.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$150,000 for up to three years, up to \$125,000 in the fourth year, and up to \$100,000 in the fifth and final year.

**Expected Results:**

- 1) The grantee will survey stakeholders to gather information about their experiences and goals, share this information with TCDD, and use this information to plan the first and/or second summit (short range).
- 2) The grantee will coordinate and host at least 3 transportation summits for organizations and individuals who will actively collaborate with others in their community to address local transportation issues (medium range).
- 3) The grantee will maintain contact with local groups between summits to assist them to access any additional information, training, or technical assistance they need to reach their goals (medium range).
- 4) At least two of the local communities will create a measurable increase in the percent of people with developmental disabilities who report on a survey that they have better access to the transportation they need (long range).
- 5) Throughout and after this project, the grantee will provide TCDD with up-to-date information and recommendations that can be used to develop further policy actions and future projects.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1**

**Goal:** Perform a needs assessment survey on the population of individuals with disabilities

to determine service, infrastructure gaps, and barriers to the use of existing transportation systems. Facilitate communication and provide technical assistance to transportation providers and Texans with disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve this population in strategic Texas locations to increase Texans with disabilities participation with transportation planning entities. Recommend improvements and additions to existing public transportation services and infrastructure that will better serve individuals with disabilities.

**Objectives:**

- 1) Through research, a needs assessment, and public forums, Transportation Works will identify service gaps, infrastructure shortfalls, and barriers that hinder the use of accessible transportation options.
- 2) Provide opportunities for local transportation providers and representatives from Centers for Independent Living, including consumers with disabilities, to participate in community summits to be held in various parts of the state. These regional and statewide summits will offer a public forum for participants to share ideas, concerns, ask questions, develop partnerships, and create solutions that increase accessible transportation.
- 3) Transportation Works will provide an updated database of transportation resources and a resource guide in various formats to individuals seeking transportation options in Texas.
- 4) Transportation Works will educate and provide technical training for Center for Independent Living leadership and regional transportation providers seeking to implement transportation-related services with the intent to increase and improve the engagement and advocacy among individuals with disabilities.
- 5) Transportation Works will allow the Texas SILC to compile a comprehensive report on the aggregate findings of the survey responses, PAC guidance, progress of the 30 CATs, and feedback from Texans with disabilities and transportation providers.
- 6) Transportation Works will allow the Texas SILC to work with partners in regional transportation to develop recommendations in work groups for presentation at the final statewide Transportation Works summit in the spring of 2020.

**Accomplishments per Goal:** Texas SILC recruited 36 Consumer Advocates in Transportation (CATs). Member Daniel Curtis facilitated a volunteer ridesharing program to assist his wheelchair rugby teammates in attending practices, games, and social events. The organization developed a pre- and post-survey as well as a Needs Assessment. Texas SILC received consulting services from Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) on the three documents. Texas SILC has begun to collect and organize transportation resource information in an accessible format via the organization's website. Transportation Works newsletters have been published to provide the latest transportation and mobility news to

the Independent Living Community. The project also launched a website. The first accessible transportation summit was held March 1-2, 2017 in Austin, for which 151 individuals registered. Of those, over half were Texans with disabilities. Contributors included Disability Rights Texas, Arc of Texas, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Texans with disabilities, and family members. Survey and needs assessment data was collected and is being analyzed.

## **Project Goals and Objectives for Year 2**

**Goal:** Transportation Works will increase accessible transportation for Texans with disabilities by removing barriers. Texans with disabilities will have increased knowledge, skills, and abilities to access transportation options in their community.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Identify service gaps, infrastructure shortfalls, and barriers that hinder the use of accessible transportation in the targeted service area (Waco);
- 2) Facilitate communication and provide technical assistance to transportation providers and Texans with disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve this population in strategic Texas locations to increase Texans with disabilities participation with transportation planning entities;
- 3) Recommend improvements and additions to existing public transportation services and infrastructure that will better serve individuals with disabilities.

## **Council Considerations**

**Grant Management Considerations:** Grantee often misses deadlines for required reports and/or application materials.

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends continued funding for this project.

## **Continuation Budget Detail Summary**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Federal Amount Expended</b>	<b>Match Amount Expended</b>	<b>Expended Total Amounts</b>
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (7 months) (Consultant: \$24,455)	\$150,000/\$82,513	\$38,632/\$15,185	\$188,632/\$97,698



## Amounts Requested for Year Five Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$102,908	\$0	\$102,908
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$1,421	\$0	\$1,421
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (\$18,242 consultants)	\$33,016	\$16,666	\$49,682
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$252	\$0	\$252
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$9,504	\$40	\$9,504
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$2,899	\$0	\$2,899
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$150,000	\$16,666	\$166,666

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

**ITEM: B**

**Date:** 5/3/2017

**Grantee:** Region 17 Education Service Center

**Year:** 5 of 5

**Project Title:** Family Involvement in Schools

**Project Location:** Bailey, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Cochran, Hockley, Lubbock, Crosby, Dickens, King, Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Gaines, Dawson, Borden

**Website:** none

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The intent of the Family Involvement in Schools proposal is for one project to recruit, engage, empower, and support families of children with special needs attending schools in the Region 17 Educational Service Center (ESC) to become involved with their child's public school.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$300,000 for up to five years.

**Expected Results:** At least 2,220 parents or other family members (including fictive kin) who have children attending schools in the Region 17 ESC will be actively engaged in schools and other education-focused community collaborative efforts because they receive training and other necessary services to support that involvement.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1–4**

**Goal:** Build collaborations within ESC 17 to demonstrate ways to create measurable improvement in at least 2 identified indicators of educational success for students with developmental disabilities. The percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement will increase. The long-term goal is that 1 family member for every 4 students with disabilities will be actively engaged in schools.

**Objectives:**

- 1) Provide training and coaching to support active engagement by at least 1 family member for every 4 students who have developmental disabilities in ESC 17;
- 2) Increase the number of home and school activities that participating districts provide to families of students with disabilities within the school year;
- 3) Increase the attendance of parents/family members at ARD meetings;
- 4) Increase the attendance of parents/family members at training and events; and

- 5) Increase parents' level of satisfaction with the school environment, communication between parents and school and ARD/IEP participation.

**Accomplishments per Goal:** A total of 4 school districts (Slaton, Roosevelt, Wilson, and Southland ISD) were recruited to participate in training and coaching for Cohort 1. Cohort 2 consists of Brownfield ISD (6 campuses total) and 2 other campuses in Levelland ISD and Denver City ISD. ESC 17 has utilized a coaching model that will enable districts to continue utilizing strategies acquired through the trainings and collaborations. A library of resources is provided for parents and professionals to each campus. In year 3, the grantee continued to work with the Academic Beginnings Center in Levelland, Kelley Dodson Elementary in Denver City and added the elementary campuses in Floydada ISD and all campuses in Seminole ISD. Cohort 4 included South Elementary in Levelland ISD, and Upland and Legacy Elementary Schools in Frenship ISD. Some support continues with all campuses from previous years. A Hippotherapy (horses) experience was provided as well as BLOCKfest trainings and events including Inclusion Works! And Building Strong Families conferences.

### **Project Goals and Objectives for Year 5**

**Goal:** same as above for Years 1–4.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1) Provide training and coaching to support active engagement by at least one family member for every four students who have developmental disabilities in the selected cohort school districts within the geographic boundaries of Region 17 ESC;
- 2) Increase the number of home and school activities that participating districts provide to families of students with disabilities within the school year;
- 3) Increase the attendance of parents/family members at ARD meetings; and
- 4) Increase the attendance of parents/family members at trainings and events.

### **Council Considerations**

**Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns.

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends a Year 5 focus on data collection strategies that will inform student outcomes, and promote sustainability and replication in other regions. Specifically, TCDD staff recommends continued funding pending additional detail and negotiations related to 1) Cohort 5 supplies budget, and 2) proposed evaluation and goal of measurable improvement at least 2 identified indicators of educational success for students with developmental disabilities.

### Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Expended Total Amounts
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (Consultant: \$95,500)	\$300,000/\$300,000	\$35,715/\$33,333	\$335,175/\$333,333
<b>Expended Year 2</b> (Consultant: \$97,912)	\$300,000/\$300,000	\$35,715/\$33,333	\$333,333/\$333,333
<b>Expended Year 3</b> (Consultant: \$80,000)	\$300,000/\$300,000	\$35,715/\$33,333	\$333,333/\$333,333
<b>Expended Year 4</b> (8 months) (Consultant: \$70,000)	\$300,000/\$162,375	\$33,333/\$17,460	\$333,333/\$179,835

### Amounts Requested for Year Five Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$101,133	\$0	\$101,133
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (\$18,242 consultants)	\$89,550	\$17,346	\$106,896
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$71,390	\$2,412	\$73,802
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$22,623	\$0	\$22,623
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$300	\$0	\$300
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$0	\$13,575	\$13,575
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$299,996	\$33,333	\$333,329

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities  
Executive Committee  
Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

**ITEM: C**

**Date:** 5/3/2017

**Grantee:** Family to Family Network

**Year:** 2 of 5

**Project Title:** Leadership Development and Advocacy Training

**Project Location:** Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Liberty, and Waller Counties

**Website:** [www.familytofamilynetwork.org](http://www.familytofamilynetwork.org)

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The project intent is to continue to assist Texans with developmental disabilities and their families to have support and training needed to be strong leaders and advocates.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$75,000 for up to 5 years.

**Expected Results:** Training projects will train at least 100 people each year; document that at least 80% of program participants demonstrate perceived improvement in their ability to advocate for themselves and others; and, at least 10% of program participants will continue involvement in leadership roles or public advocacy after their training is complete.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1**

**Goal:** To improve the self-advocacy, public policy advocacy and leadership of 100 individuals with disabilities and their families and other interested community members.

**Accomplishments per Goal:** To date, 53 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and 12 community members have been trained in advocacy skills at the Legislative Forum and, 36 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and 85 community members had a full day of training on employment in the fall of 2016. In the current class, there are 34 individuals registered for the 4-part series. One class was held before the continuation application was due with subsequent classes scheduled for March 25, April 22 and May 13. There is a Spanish day of advocacy scheduled for June 10. This class will be held in Spanish only. The project feels that they will exceed their target numbers for year one based on the numbers to date. The project collaborated with the Arc of Texas, Arc of Greater Houston, Imagine Enterprises/Project SPEAK, Disability Rights Texas Institute for Person Centered Practice, Texas Parent to Parent and Family Services to provide the training. For the Spanish only class, the project will collaborate with Arc of Greater Houston, Partners Resource Network and Houston Community College – VAST Academy.

## Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2

**Goal:** same as above for Year 1.

**Objectives:** Coordinate a Project Advisory Committee with diverse backgrounds that represent the Houston community; determine locations and dates of training events; coordinate, organize and facilitate four full-day training sessions for participants twice per year as well as one specialized training and one resource event; conduct project evaluations; and, sustainability of project through lasting or permanent change of outcomes will be documented through one year follow-up surveys as well as relationships built and communication systems established to maintain connections with participants. Financial sustainability will be addressed through grant writing and other possible collaborative projects.

## Council Considerations

**Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns; moderate risk monitoring (award within awards).

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends the Council to consider continued funding.

## Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Expended Total Amounts
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (7 months) (Consultants: \$15,738)	\$75,000/\$25,931	\$25,029/\$10,019	\$125,029/\$35,950

## Amounts Requested for Year Two Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$35,000	\$8,000	\$43,000
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$1,231	\$0	\$1,231
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (Consultants: \$15,738)	\$16,012	\$12,437	\$28,449
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$741	\$459	\$1,200
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$3,204	\$3,453	\$6,657
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$2,208	\$0	\$2,208
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$75,000	\$25,029	\$100,009

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

**ITEM: D**

**Date:** 5/3/2017

**Grantee:** National Disability Institute

**Year:** 2 of 3

**Project Title:** Understanding Employment Options and Supports

**Project Location:** Statewide

**Website:** ndi-inc.org

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The intent of the Understanding Employment Options and Supports is to increase the number of Texans with developmental disabilities who retain necessary benefits from SSI/SSDI programs, waiver programs, and other formal and informal supports while working in competitive positions in the community.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$150,000 for up to three years.

**Expected Results:** By the end of the first year, the grantee will determine training needs and acquire or adapt existing resources to meet training needs and/or develop new training. By the end of the second year, the grantee will evaluate the effectiveness of the training with target audiences; modify the training as needed based on the evaluation results; finalize and package the training for later use by individuals or by groups; and make the training available in a format that will allow TCDD to include links to the training on the TCDD website. The number of Texans with developmental disabilities gaining competitive employment and increasing their personal income and assets will continue to grow each year.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1**

**Goal:** Increase the number of Texans with developmental disabilities who retain necessary benefits from the SSI/SSDI programs, waiver programs, and other formal and informal supports while working in competitive positions in the community.

**Objectives:**

- 1) Identify the needs of individuals, family members, and their support systems on public benefits, employment options, and financial capability strategies;
- 2) Increase awareness, understanding, and utilization of an array of supports to increase income and assets through competitive employment;
- 3) Expand cross-system collaboration to support project activities and outreach; and

- 4) High level management, oversight, and quality control of services are executed and program efforts and outcomes are collected and evaluated to identify trends and enhance program operations. Accomplishments per goal: The project identified the needs of individuals, family members and support systems regarding public benefit programs, employment services, and financial capability strategies. The survey of needs was designed and disseminated broadly and reached 1,394 individuals across the state. A total of 400 people completed the survey; NDI submitted a report of the findings and an action plan. With approval of the action plan, NDI will begin to develop strategies to increase awareness, understanding, and utilization of an array of supports to increase income and assets through competitive employment.

## **Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2**

**Goal:** same as above for Year 1.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Increase awareness, understanding, and utilization of an array of supports to increase income and assets through competitive employment;
- 2) Expand cross-system collaboration to support project activities and outreach; and 3) High level management, oversight, and quality control of services are executed and program efforts and outcomes are collected and evaluated to identify trends and enhance program operations. NDI proposes the following activities:
  - a. A webinar series,
  - b. 3-minute videos,
  - c. 30-second trainings, and
  - d. An online training program

## **Council Considerations**

**Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns.

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends continued funding for this project.

### **Continuation Budget Detail Summary**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Federal Amount Expended</b>	<b>Match Amount Expended</b>	<b>Expended Total Amounts</b>
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (7 months) (Consultant: \$53,587)	\$150,000/\$34,136	\$38,632/\$11,367	\$188,632/\$45,503



## Amounts Requested for Year Five Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$85,794	\$13,223	\$99,017
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$5,440	\$0	\$5,440
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (Consultants: \$42,100)	\$45,375	\$0	\$45,375
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$2,112	\$0	\$2,112
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$0	\$5,280	\$5,280
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$2,700	\$0	\$2,700
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$8,579	\$20,136	\$28,715
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$150,000	\$38,639	\$188,639

**Background:**

During the Committee of the Whole, members will participate in round-table discussions on legislative activity surrounding TCDD Public Policy Priorities. This will allow members to engage with staff and each other on the topics of the Texas Budget, Education, Employment and Long-Term Services and Supports. Bill-tracking lists for the following subjects are linked below:

- [Community Living Bill Tracking](#)
- [Education — General Bill Tracking](#)
- [Education — Assessment and Accountability Bill Tracking](#)
- [Employment Bill Tracking](#)
- [State Supported Living Centers Bill Tracking](#)
- [Guardianship and Alternatives Bill Tracking](#)

Please remember that the bill activity noted here is only accurate to the publication date. If you have specific interest in a bill and wish to know the current status, please enter the bill number into the search engine at the Texas Legislature Online website: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>. Bring your questions about the bills as we look forward to our discussion. The summary of the Texas Budget is included behind Tab 7.

**Committee of the Whole — Agenda Item 5****Expected Action:**

The Committee will discuss strategies to address issues related to people with disabilities during the legislative session.

## Appropriations

Tab 7

### **Background:**

An updated summary of the state budget recommendations for FY 2018 - FY 2019 from the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representative is included for your review. Budget appropriations will be a topic of one of the round-table discussions at the Committee of the Whole.

[House and Senate Budget Comparison](#), TCDD, published April 19, 2017

### **Committee of the Whole — Agenda Item 5**

#### **Expected Action:**

The Committee will discuss strategies to address issues related to people with disabilities during the legislative session.

<b>Project Development Committee Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Tab 8</b>
<p><b>Background:</b> Minutes of the February 10, 2017, Project Development Committee meeting are included for your review.</p>	
<p><b>Project Development Committee — Agenda Item 3</b> <b>Expected Action:</b> The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.</p>	

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING February 10, 2017 — MINUTES

### Committee Members Present

Gladys Cortez, Chair  
Kimberly Blackmon  
Mary Durheim, Council Chair  
Mateo Delgado  
Ivy Goldstein, DSHS  
Scott McAvoy  
David Taylor  
John Thomas  
Rick Tisch

### Committee Members Absent

Jennifer Kaut, TWC  
Dana Perry  
Ron Roberts, TEA

### Guests Present

Isabel Evans

### Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive  
Director  
Martha Cantu  
Joanna Cordry  
Cynthia Ellison  
Danny Fikac  
Fernando Rodriguez

### Call To Order

The Project Development Committee met on Thursday, February 10, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Austin — Midtown, 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, Texas 78752. Committee Chair Gladys Cortez called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM. A quorum was present.

#### 1. **Introductions**

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

#### 2. **Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

#### 3. **Consideration of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed minutes of the November 3, 2016, Project Development Committee meeting. No additions or corrections were noted.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the November 3, 2016, Project Development Committee.

**MADE BY:** Scott McAvoy

**SECOND:** John Thomas

The motion passed **unanimously**.

#### 4. **Chair's Remarks**

Chair Cortez made several announcements:

- A. Dana Perry has an excused absence and will not be able to attend the meeting.
- B. The Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Education Agency representatives would not be able to attend.

- C. Cortez advised that if Council members are going to continually miss meetings they need to reconsider their appointment to the Council.
- D. Committee members were encouraged to review future meeting locations.
- E. Council Chair Mary Durheim and Executive Director Beth Stalvey have been in touch with staff from the Governor's Appointments Office and noted that eight applications have been submitted for consideration. Committee members discussed the requirements for appointment and the Developmental Disabilities Act requirement that membership meets the geographic representation of the state as well as the diversity of the state with respect to race and ethnicity.
- F. The Committee was reminded that the Personal Financial Statements are due to the Texas Ethics Commission by May 1, 2017.

**5. Member Updates**

Council members Scott McAvoy and Ivy Goldstein participated on the Texas Consumer Integration Support Conference call. They discussed day habilitation alternatives and support for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) settings rule compliance required by March 2019. Staff noted that the State Plan Objective 1.4 deals with providing community-based meaningful day activities.

**6. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion**

The Committee discussed a handout on Disproportionality and Disparities which focused on English Language Learners (ELL) who receive special education. Chair Cortez read an excerpt from the Houston Chronicle included in the handout. Planning Director Joanna Cordry provided updates on work from both Planning and Public Policy staff who identified organizations that have testified regarding bilingual education. Staff intend to identify opportunities for collaboration with the organizations and report back to the Council. Public Policy staff will continue to track and advocate on legislation filed on this subject during 85th Texas Legislature. Staff also reported that discussions with grantees indicated that federal mandates for ELL may conflict with the cultural differences in their communities. The Committee determined that additional research is still needed.

**7. Staff Reports**

**A. Status of New/Approved Projects**

Grants Management Director Cynthia Ellison reported that there were no new projects started during the previous quarter.

**B. Projected Available Funds**

Operations Director Martha Cantu reported that TCDD projects are currently operating from FY 2016 funds. Although a negative balance of \$37,817 is reflected for FY 2016, staff expect to have funds returned from current grantees which will aid in eliminating that deficit. Currently, TCDD has 15 employees and two vacancies. An available 18th Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) was not budgeted for FY 2017. There were no questions for Cantu.

### **C. Other Updates**

Planning Director Cordry reported that the Annual Program Performance Report was submitted by the December 31, 2016 deadline. Currently, Planning staff members are working on the Request for Proposals for a Sibling Network and additional Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows projects.

Cordry announced that current TCDD grantee Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. developed an application with Papa John's that was used by employees with disabilities at the Super Bowl. The Committee discussed the demographics of the participants and asked to see an example of the application.

Cordry reported on current activities of former TCDD grantees and noted that seven grantees have continued or extended their activities. Project DOCC Houston ended in 2010 but confirmed that it has expanded the project activities. It addresses physicians' understanding of a family's experiences with the severe and complex medical issues of children with disabilities.

The Committee was interested in knowing how the collected information is used to develop sustainability in future projects. Cordry reported that sustainability is continued through a project's collaborative partners or through continued activities of the participants.

The Committee was updated on the progress of Partners in Policymaking. Executive Director Stalvey announced that the website launched Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Applications are accessible until May 1, 2017 and individuals can apply online or submit by mail. Speakers have been confirmed and there are 35 openings for participants in the first class. Following Committee questions about sustainability, Stalvey noted that it is addressed in the contract and Johnson Applied Solutions is committed to creating sustainability. An alumni tab is available on the website for Partners graduates to offer support and maintain contact with the current program. The Project Advisory Committee has been established and it contains five Partner graduates as well as Committee Chair Gladys Cortez. It was suggested that Partners graduates could be encouraged to submit Council member applications.

## **8. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation**

### **A. State Plan Projects List**

The Committee discussed the list of projects that must be developed to address goals and objectives in the FY 2017 – FY 2021 State Plan and Planning Director Cordry provided the status of these projects. Proposals for the Youth Leadership project were presented to the Executive Committee and funding was awarded to three organizations.

Cordry updated the Committee on the following objectives from the State Plan Projects List:

1. **Objective 3.1 — Rural Projects and Outreach:**

Both Light and Salt, and REACH continue with a \$75,000 Culturally Appropriate Family Support grant. Chair Cortez inquired if the Leadership Development and Advocacy project from Easter Seals Central Texas meets the Outreach Objective because Easter Seals provides bilingual (English and Spanish) training in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Cordry stated that the project activities are consistent that objective but that project was intended to meet the objective for leadership and advocacy training.

2. **Objective 3.4 — Support self-advocates and family members:**

TCDD offered stipends to individuals/parents to participate in statewide workgroups and advisory committees. However, the agencies supporting these workgroups and committees are or will be providing funds to ensure public members can participate. TCDD will need to develop an activity to meet the State Plan objective.

3. **Objective 3.1 — Support at least nine leadership development and advocacy skills training programs:**

TCDD planned to fund four leadership development advocacy projects but currently has only funded three programs. The Council has until 2021 to fund the fourth project.

The Committee support the idea to develop a leadership development and advocacy project to support local self-advocacy groups. They directed staff to research ideas to execute this support and bring information to the Committee.

9. **Future Project Funding Priorities**

The Committee reviewed the current list of projects and made no changes to the list of priorities that have been approved for funding.

10. **Other Discussion Items**

The Committee discussed accomplishments TCDD would like to see from the 85th legislation session. Committee member Rich Tisch would like to see the Rainy-Day Fund accessed to fund items consistent with TCDD priorities.

Executive Director Stalvey stated that there are a number of things that members can do to advocate on issues between meetings and TCDD staff can assist members with follow-up to their legislators if requested.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Chair Cortez adjourned the meeting at 9:43 AM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council



**Background:**

The Project Development Committee will discuss project ideas to implement the current TCDD State Plan. The enclosed documents provide information to assist with that discussion:

- **State Plan Projects List** — The FY 2017 – FY 2021 State Plan requires specific projects to be implemented. This list is inclusive of projects that must be developed to address goals and objectives in the plan, and provides the current status of projects already addressed.
- **Idea Discussion Guide** — Contains a list of questions for discussion when considering a new project idea or the sustainability of completed projects
- **Executive Summaries** — TCDD staff prepared executive summaries for the following proposed projects that meet state plan requirements:
  1. Local Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
  2. DD Network Partners Collaborative Project

The Committee will discuss the outcomes of the recently completed Health and Fitness Projects. A summary of those projects is included to assist with that discussion — [Health and Fitness Projects](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Cordry, Planning Director at (512) 437-5410 or joanna.cordry@tcdd.texas.gov.

**Project Development Committee — Agenda Item 8****Expected Action:**

The Project Development Committee will consider the Executive Summary and may recommend Council approval for funding.

**Council — Agenda Item 5. A. – B.****Expected Action:**

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

## State Plan Projects List Report May 2017

The following tables list State Plan Objectives for which projects remain to be implemented.

### Projects Currently in Development

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.3	Develop at least five new programs that successfully support individuals with developmental disabilities to be included in post-secondary education.	Three almost completed; a project to create at least two more programs new programs has started.
1.4	Pilot at least one model that provides community-based, person-centered activities for people who are not employed and not in school.	Research being conducted by staff; not necessary to implement in FY17.
2.2	Collaborate with the Texas DD Network Partners to educate people about and increase the use of alternatives to guardianship.	Executive Summary approved.
3.1	Create a youth leadership training program.	Three proposals approved for negotiation.
3.1	Provide policy fellowships to train at least two people each year.	One Fellow funded in FY17. Plan to repost RFP.
3.1	Develop a plan and timeline to create a sibling network.	Executive Summary approved.
3.2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities each year (community-based and institutional settings).	Executive Summary for Developmental Disabilities Peer Support Specialists (community-based) approved. Project to provide training to people institutions TBD.
3.2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy training. (required objective)	Grassroots Community Organizing project in progress until 2018. Executive Summary for Local Self-Advocates Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Project to be reviewed May 2017.

### Objectives Required to be Implemented Each Year

Objective number	Objective	Status
3.2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy training. (required objective)	Grassroots Community Organizing project in progress until 2018.
3.3	Collaborate with at least one statewide self-advocacy network to increase their capacity to pursue their mission. (required objective)	Continue to collaborate with Texas Advocates; Public Policy staff provide support. Additional activities targeted to increase their capacity needed.
3.1	Support the participation of people living in rural areas and people who self-identify as having a racial or ethnic minority background in TCDD leadership and advocacy projects. (required objective)	Priority given to applications proposing to do this. Two Culturally Appropriate Family Supports, Paso del Norte, and Easter Seals will address it. Additional work recommended.
3.4	Support self-advocates and family members to participate in cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions. (required objective)	Offer stipends to participate in statewide workgroups. May need new project in FY 2018.

### Objectives that must be Implemented by Fiscal Year 2021

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.2	Create training and information for people who have developmental disabilities and families on financial literacy, SSI/SSDI and benefits.	One project in progress; one to be developed (TBD).
1.6	Pilot at least one program to provide community-based person-centered supports for people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs, including mental health needs.	no data

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.8	Implement at least three projects to address specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who identify with a specific minority culture(s).	Two in progress. Outreach and Development RFP ongoing.
1.9	Pilot at least one practice to address the needs of people with developmental disabilities who are aging and their caregivers.	no data
1.10	Pilot at least one practice that supports organizations that serve the general public to improve how they include and are responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities.	
2.2	Collaborate with the DD Network Partners to promote the use of person-centered practices.	no data
2.3	Collaborate with at least three community-based organizations to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers experienced by individuals who are Spanish-speaking.	Possibly a staff activity – issue identified is Special Education Disparities experienced by students with disabilities who are Spanish-speaking.
3.1	Provide financial support for at least four general leadership development and advocacy skills training programs.	Three have started; one additional grantee to be selected. Executive Summary for fourth project to be reviewed in May 2017.

# **Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities**

## **FY 2017–2021 Five-Year State Plan Goals and Objectives**

### **Goal 1:**

Create and support promising practices that enable people with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities and to have control over their own lives by 9/30/2021.

**Objective 1.1:** Demonstrate at least three models that support people with disabilities to have employment of their choice by 9/31/2018.

- Texas Tech — Project SEARCH
- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities/HEART — Enabling Technology (Inventory Tracking System)
- Strategic Education Solutions — Enabling Technology (Web-based virtual job coach application)

**Objective 1.2:** Implement two programs to provide training and information to people who have developmental disabilities and their families on financial literacy, SSI/SSDI and health benefits by 1/1/2021.

- National Disability Institute (NDI) — Understanding Employment Options and Supports
- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

**Objective 1.3:** Develop at least five new programs that demonstrate success at supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to be more fully included in post—secondary education by 5/31/2021.

- Texas Tech — Project CASE
- Texas A&M — Bridge to Career in Human Service
- DARS — Project HIRE
- Higher Education Collaborative — Texas A&M
- TBD

**Objective 1.4:** Pilot at least one new model that provides community—based person—centered activities for people with developmental disabilities who are not employed and not in school by 9/30/2021.

- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

**Objective 1.5:** Demonstrate at least three new models that support individuals with disabilities to improve or maintain their health by 3/31/2018.

- Any Baby Can — Any Body Can
- Epilepsy Foundation — Get FIT Texas
- Statewide Independent Living Council — Getting Fit to Live, Work, and Play

**Objective 1.6:** Pilot at least one new community-based person-centered practice that ensures that people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs, including mental health needs, receive appropriate and timely services by 9/30/2021.

- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

**Objective 1.7:** Each year of the plan, provide support to stakeholders to participate in transportation planning activities that increase mobility and availability of accessible transportation.

- Statewide Independent Living Council — Transportation Works

**Objective 1.8:** Implement at least three projects that address specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who identify with a specific minority culture(s) by 9/30/2021.

- Light and Salt Association — Culturally Appropriate Family Supports
- Reaching Families Advocacy and Support Group — Culturally Appropriate Family Supports
- Outreach and Development (Grantees TBD)

**Objective 1.9:** Pilot at least one practice that addresses the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are aging, and their caregivers by 9/30/2021.

- TBD

**Objective 1.10:** Pilot at least one practice that supports organizations, agencies, groups, or individuals that provide services to the general public to fully include and be responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2021.

- TBD

## **Goal 2:**

Improve and/or expand community — based systems to better support people with developmental disabilities or families of children with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities by 9/30/2021.

**Objective 2.1:** Each year of the plan, promote systems that will sustain the policies and programs that demonstrate success in supporting people with developmental disabilities or families of people with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities.

- Volar Center for Independent Living — Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

- Community Healthcore — Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

**Objective 2.2:** Collaborate with the Texas Developmental Disabilities Network Partners (the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, the Texas Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, and Disability Rights Texas) to promote person-centered practices and educate people with developmental disabilities and their families about, and increase the use of, alternatives to guardianship by 9/30/2021.

- Alternatives to Guardianship training project

**Objective 2.3:** Collaborate with at least three community-based organizations to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers that prevent individuals who are Spanish — speaking from receiving services by 9/30/2021.

- TBD – not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

**Objective 2.4:** Each year of the plan, advocate for legislative/policy change to improve educational outcomes and remove barriers to full-time or part-time employment for people with developmental disabilities.

- Region 17 Education Service Center — Families in Schools

### **Goal 3:**

Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems, and community supports.

**Objective 3.1:** Support at least nine leadership development and advocacy skills training programs for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and allies by 9/30/2021.

- SAFE — Youth Leadership (not yet started as of 3/31/17)
- Mounting Horizons — Youth Leadership (not yet started as of 3/31/17)
- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities — Youth Leadership (not yet started as of 3/31/17)
- Family to Family — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
- Paso Del Norte Children's Center — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
- Easter Seals Central Texas — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
- Leadership Development and Advocacy Training — Self Advocates (grantee TBD)
- Partners in Policymaking (Johnson Applied Solutions)
- Support for people underserved or unserved — Leadership Development and

Advocacy Training (grantees and activities TBD)

- Sibling Network
- TCDD Policy Fellowships — EveryChild, Inc

**Objective 3.2:** Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities each year.

- Texas Advocates — Grassroots Community Organizing
- Self-Advocates as Mentors/Trainers to People in Institutions (grantee(s) TBD)
- Peer Support Specialist (grantee TBD)

**Objective 3.3:** Collaborate with at least one statewide self-advocacy organization run by people with developmental disabilities to create opportunities to increase their ability to strengthen their organization and pursue their mission by 9/30/2021.

- TBD
- Public Policy activities

**Objective 3.4:** Support self-advocates and family members to participate in cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions each year.

- Center for Disability Studies — Stipends to support self-advocates and family members on boards and committees

#### **Goal 4:**

Ensure there is ongoing support and technical assistance for the Council to identify and engage in issues according to the Council's priorities and mission.

**Objective 4.1:** Each year of the plan, provide written and/or verbal public policy input on behalf of TCDD regarding issues that impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Objective 4.2:** Each year of the plan, organize and conduct communications activities to increase connections to organizations and individuals.

**Objective 4.3:** Each year of the plan, evaluate and/or address opportunities to develop or incorporate new promising practices that would improve TCDD's ability to achieve the Council's mission.



## **Project Development Committee — Idea Discussion Guide**

### **Questions to be considered when discussing a new project idea:**

1. What is the issue or gap in the system that needs to be addressed?
2. What group or groups of people with disabilities would benefit from addressing this issue?
  - A. Consider: Geographic area(s); age(s); disability type(s); race/ethnicity; people who speak different languages; income; education
3. What state plan objective does this address?
4. What public policy priority does this address?
5. How has this issue been addressed to date?
  - A. Previous or current TCDD Grant?
  - B. Effort from other organization or state agency? Who?
  - C. What was the result?
  - D. How have other states addressed this?
6. How would TCDD build on current and/or previous efforts? (Describe specific activities)
  - A. Advocacy — Telling others about issues, needs, and possible solutions.
  - B. Capacity Building — Helping communities and other groups build their resources.
  - C. Systems Change — Changing the way government programs, state agencies, and other organizations do business every day to improve support for people with disabilities.
7. Who is ultimately responsible for this issue in our system long term?
  - A. Individuals with DD, Families, Service Providers, Community organizations, State agencies, leaders/policy makers.
8. What disparity or disproportionalities exist related to this project?
9. Is addressing this issue feasible?

# **Funding Proposal Executive Summary**

## **Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Project**

### **Background**

TCDD includes multiple objectives in its 2017-2021 state plan to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training to support individuals in creating systems change. TCDD received public input prior to the development of the FY 2017 – 21 State Plan suggesting that TCDD award funding to a local self-advocacy group to implement a leadership and advocacy training. TCDD has awarded many similar grants, including to a statewide self-advocacy group. However, very few local self-advocacy groups have received funding to implement a project.

### **State Plan Goal**

**Goal 3:** Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems and community supports.

**Objective 3.1:** Support at least nine leadership development and advocacy skills training programs for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities and allies by 9/30/21.

Three of the four planned Leadership Development and Advocacy projects were awarded funding. The following three organizations were each awarded \$75,000 per year, for up to three years, and are in their first year:

- Easter Seals Central Texas (individuals with developmental disabilities)
- Family to Family (individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and community members)
- Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center (individuals with developmental disabilities and family members)

Additionally, three Youth Leadership projects have been approved for funding and will begin in the summer of 2017:

- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (ages 16-22; also employment-related)
- Mounting Horizons (ages 14-22)
- SAFE Alliance (18-22; also incorporates training to develop meaningful relationships)

Additionally, Objective 3.2 supports people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities. TCDD is currently providing funding to Texas Advocates, Texas' statewide self-advocacy organization, to address this objective.

### **Expected Outcome**

One local self-advocacy group will provide leadership development and advocacy skills training for at least 100 people each year, on average, and document that:

- At least 80% of trainees demonstrate perceived improvement in their knowledge and ability to advocate for themselves and others
- At least 10% of trainees have continued involvement in leadership roles or public advocacy after the end of the project

## **Project Description**

One project will provide leadership development and advocacy skills training using curriculum approved by TCDD. Project staff will determine the curriculum to be used and how training will be provided. Training must include:

- History and philosophy of the disability rights movement;
- Principles of self-determination;
- Strategies to find and access necessary services and supports;
- Activities to develop self-advocacy skills; and
- Activities to promote interaction between participants and peer support.

For this project, the applicants are limited to local self-advocacy groups and organizations. Priority will be given to those groups and organizations located in rural and or underserved areas of the State. Training participants may include individuals with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and other interested community members who do not fall into either of these categories. Priority shall be given to support the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities; spouses or partners of individuals with developmental disabilities; and other family members of adults with developmental disabilities. Space permitting, other community members may attend training.

Organizations implementing the training may charge a reasonable fee for training or for Continuing Education Units, but must ensure that any person with a developmental disability and family member of a person with a developmental disability will be able to participate, regardless of ability or inability to pay. TCDD will have final approval of any fee structure and procedure.

All organizations must have procedures in place to obtain contact information (including e-mail addresses) from participants and to inform participants that their contact information will be forwarded to TCDD so that TCDD may provide information related to advocacy opportunities to advocates. Grantees should forward to TCDD names of individuals who are interested in ongoing advocacy, advanced training or serving on a board or committee.

## **Proposed Funding Amount**

Up to \$75,000 for one project, per year, for up to five years. Additional funding may be made available to provide reasonable accommodations to Project Directors or Project Coordinators who have a developmental disability if accommodations are necessary and exceed the amount the organization can afford. Additional funding must be based on level of need and may not exceed \$25,000 per project.

## **Proposed Duration**

Up to five years

## **Considerations**

None

# **Funding Proposal Executive Summary**

## **Texas Developmental Disabilities Network Partners Project: Impact of Medicaid Services and Supports**

### **Project Goal**

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) will collaborate with other DD Network Partners (Disability Rights Texas, University of Texas Center for Disability Studies, and Texas A&M University Center on Disability and Development) to compile personal stories from individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members about the ways in which Medicaid services support them in their daily lives. These stories would be used to inform state policy makers, federal representatives, and the public about how changes to the state Medicaid program would impact people with developmental disabilities and their families.

### **Relationship to TCDD FY 2017 – FY2021 State Plan Goals**

**Goal 2:** Improve and/or expand community-based systems to better support people with developmental disabilities or families of children with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities.

The current Objective 2.2 is: Collaborate with the Texas Developmental Disabilities Network Partners (the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, the Texas Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, and Disability Rights Texas) to promote person-centered practices and educate people with developmental disabilities and their families about, and increase the use of, alternatives to guardianship by 9/30/2021.

If the activities recommended in this Executive Summary are approved, the workplan for this Objective in the five-year state plan would be amended.

### **Background**

Medicaid offers critical long term services and supports to individuals with disabilities and their families. Congress and the President have indicated that they would like to change Medicaid to a Block Grant program, and similar discussions have been raised by our Governor and state elected officials during the current Texas Legislative session. Changes to the Medicaid program that alter eligibility or create federal/state Block Grants would fundamentally change how Medicaid works and could negatively impact Texans with disabilities if not addressed appropriately. Many leaders at the state and federal level may not realize that the familiar Texas programs, services, and supports (e.g., Texas Home Living (TxHML), Community Living Assistance and Support (CLASS), and Youth Empowerment Services (YES)) that individuals use to help them live life and stay healthy are funded by Medicaid.

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) is gathering stories from individuals across the country about what having Medicaid has meant to them, and they are using them to inform the discussions at the national level. There is evidence that these personal stories and targeted education efforts are improving policy outcomes. Working together, the DD Network partners, working together, could also gather stories to reflect the unique and diverse experiences across Texas.

The purpose of this project is three-fold:

1. To collect stories from individuals with developmental disabilities and their families on the importance of long term services and supports Medicaid provides. These stories would be shared with state level policy makers as they consider changes to the Texas Medicaid program;
2. To assist advocates, self-advocates, and other leaders to better understand the Medicaid program, the proposed policy solutions such as block grants and per-capita caps; and
3. To provide advocacy tools to support individuals and families to actively engage in discussions with policy makers about the complexities of the Medicaid program as changes are considered.

### **Expected Outcome**

Self-advocates, leaders, and state policy makers will increase their understanding of long term services and supports provided through the Medicaid program and its impact on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families:

- At least 50% of participants in leadership and advocacy training programs will demonstrate perceived improvement in their knowledge and ability to advocate for themselves and others.
- State leaders will improve their understanding of the Medicaid program and how it supports individuals with disabilities and their families.

### **Proposed Funding Contribution**

This project would be a DD Network Partners collaboration, with all four partners significantly involved in the project. The exact cost will be determined when the roles of all collaborators and available resources have been identified. Funding would not exceed \$50,000 for outreach, communication materials, staff time and travel expenses.

### **Proposed Duration**

One year

## Future Project Funding Priorities

Tab 10

### Background:

The Project Development Committee will review this chart that includes all projects previously approved by the Council that have not yet been initiated. The Committee may recommend revisions to the priority order as determined appropriate.

### Project Development Committee — Agenda Item 9

#### Expected Action:

The Project Development Committee will consider revisions to the Future Project Funding Priorities list.

### Council — Agenda Item 5. C.

#### Expected Action:

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

## TCDD Future Funding Activities Priority List As of March 31, 2017

Number	Organization/Activity	Possible Projects	Funding “Up To”	Council Approved	Expected RFP Post	Expected Start	Expected End
N/A	Outreach & Development Projects 3.1 — Projects for up to 1 year	3 per year up to 4 years	\$10,000 per project	5/6/2016	2/1/2017	FY 2017	FY 2020
N/A	Outreach & Development Projects 3.2 — Projects for up to 2 years	2 per year up to 5 years	\$20,000 per project	5/6/2016	9/30/2017	FY 2018	FY 2022
N/A	Developmental Disability Policy Fellows Program — Projects for up to 2 years	2 per year up to 5 years	\$67,500 per project	8/5/2016	9/30/2016	FY 2017	FY 2022
N/A	Higher Education Collaborative — Projects up to 5 years	1	\$372,927/per project	2/5/2016	3/25/2016	3/1/2017	2/28/2022
N/A	Youth Leadership Development — Projects up to 5 years	1	TBD	5/6/2016	9/30/2016	TBD	TBD
1	Alternatives to Guardianship and Supported Decision Making DD Network Project — Projects up to 5 years	1	TBD	2/5/2016	TBD	TBD	TBD
3	Texas Sibling Network — Projects up to 5 years	1	\$85,000 per project	11/4/2016	TBD	TBD	TBD
4	Support for Student Research-Related Expenses on Disability-Related Topics — Projects up to 5 years	3	\$25,000 per year	11/7/2014	TBD	TBD	TBD

Number	Organization/Activity	Possible Projects	Funding “Up To”	Council Approved	Expected RFP Post	Expected Start	Expected End
5	Peer Support Specialists for Person Directed Planning — Projects up to 4 years	1	Year 1 up to \$100K Year 2-4 up to \$125K	5/6/2016	TBD	TBD	TBD

Legend:

Blue text indicates: open RFP or Proposals received are under review at time of printing.

Yellow highlighted text indicates: proposals have been approved, awarded or project is in process of beginning since last Council meeting.



## Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tab 11

### **Background:**

Minutes of the February 10, 2017, Public Policy Committee meeting are included for your review.

### **Public Policy Committee — Agenda Item 3**

#### **Expected Action:**

The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

## **PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING February 10, 2017 MINUTES — DRAFT**

### **Committee Members Present**

Lora Taylor, Committee Chair  
Hunter Adkins  
Zaccheus Ahonle, UT – CDS  
Lisa Akers-Owen, HHSC,  
Older Americans Act  
Kristine Clark  
Stephen Gersuk  
Ruth Mason  
Michael Peace  
Meagan Sumbera, TAMU –  
CDD

### **Council Members Present**

Kristen Cox, Council Vice  
Chair

### **Guests Present**

Jan Brown  
Ted Johnson  
Alexandra Noble  
Sue Fielder, HHSC  
Rona Statman

### **Staff Present**

Ashley Ford  
Linda Logan  
Jessica Ramos  
Beth Stalvey, Executive  
Director

### **Committee Members Absent**

Mary Faithfull, DRTx  
Brandon Pharris  
Jami Snyder, HHSC, Title  
XIX/Medicaid

### **Call To Order**

The Public Policy Committee convened on Friday, February 10, 2017 in Cedar/Cherry Room at the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown, 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, TX 78752. Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor called those present to order at 8:34 a.m.

#### **1. Introductions**

Chair Taylor asked the Committee members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves and where they are from.

#### **2. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered to the Committee.

#### **3. Consideration of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 3, 2016, Public Policy Committee meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the November 3, 2016, Public Policy Committee meeting.

**MADE BY:** Ruth Mason

**SECOND:** Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** without opposition. Stephen Gersuk abstained.

**4. Chair's Remarks**

Chair Taylor reviewed absences and reported on the recent events that she attended, including a caregiving seminar hosted by the Department of State Health Services and a medicinal cannabis conference. Taylor encouraged committee members to share what was discussed during their legislative visits during member updates.

**5. Member Updates**

Committee members who visited with legislative offices on Thursday February 9, 2017 briefed the Committee regarding what was discussed during their visits. Policy issues discussed included meaningful day activities, employment initiatives, state supported living center (SSLC) consolidation and closure, day habilitation reform, and community living services and supports. Agency representatives also provided the Committee with updates regarding recent activities at their respective agencies.

**6. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion**

The Committee discussed TCDD strategies and potential collaborations with advocacy organizations to address disproportionality and disparities regarding English Language Learners who may be eligible to receive special education services in accordance with TCDD's State Plan Objective 2.3.

Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos informed the Committee that the Texas Developmental Disability (DD) Network Partners applied to attend the Disparity Leadership Academy offered by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). Texas applied to participate in the Academy with a goal of enhancing both individual and collaborative leadership skills that will foster long-term system change that is necessary to address disproportionality related to English Language Learners who may be eligible to receive special education services. If selected the team will be comprised of one member from TCDD, one from each Texas University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (University of Texas and Texas A&M University), and one from Disability Rights Texas.

**7. Public Policy Staff Activities**

The Committee received updates from staff regarding recent state policy issues and staff activities including:

- A. TCDD's priority bill list,
- B. TCDD's summary on the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities Accessible Parking Report,
- C. Public Comment to Texas Workforce Commission regarding the State Use Program,
- D. Center for Public Policy Priorities Testimony: Senate Finance Committee regarding Senate Bill 1, Proposed funding for Texas Health and Human Services Commission Proposed Medicaid Funding Cuts.

Committee members referenced binder and handout folder materials compiled by staff for each update.

The Committee received updates from staff regarding SSLCs including a staff summary of the Rider 21 Cost Comparison Report and the Joint Public Comment with Disability Rights Texas to Department of Aging and Disability Services regarding Supported Decision-Making in SSLCs. Committee members referenced binder and handout folder materials compiled by staff for each update.

The Committee received updates from staff regarding recent federal policy issues including the letter from United States Department of Education to Congressman Doggett regarding Early Childhood Intervention program provider withdrawal in Texas.

**8. Other Discussion Items**

No other items were discussed by the Committee.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Committee Chair Lora Taylor adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council      Date

**Background:**

- State Policy Activities — TCDD staff will provide an update regarding recent state public policy staff activities. Discussion topics include:
  1. TCDD's Priority Bill List:
    - A. [Community Living Bill Tracking](#)
    - B. [Education — General Bill Tracking](#)
    - C. [Education — Assessment and Accountability Bill Tracking](#)
    - D. [Employment Bill Tracking](#)
    - E. [Guardianship and Alternatives Bill Tracking](#)
  2. Texas Budget Summary — [House and Senate Budget Comparison](#)
  3. HCS and TxHmL Rate Reduction Update — Issue Brief: Protect People with IDD Through Viable Provider Rates.
  4. Insurance Coverage for ECI Services — Strengthen Early Childhood Intervention for Texas Children House Bill 3930
  5. Other Bills of Interest:
    - A. [Americans with Disabilities Act Bill Tracking](#)
    - B. [Healthcare Bill Tracking](#)
    - C. [Housing Bill Tracking](#)
    - D. [Mental Health Bill Tracking](#)
    - E. [Miscellaneous Bill Tracking](#)
    - F. [Service Animals Bill Tracking](#)
    - G. [Transportation Bill Tracking](#)
    - H. [Voting Bill Tracking](#)
- State Supported Living Centers Update — TCDD staff will provide an update regarding recent SSLC issues. Discussion topics include:
  1. Priority SSLC Bill List — [State Supported Living Centers Bill Tracking](#)
  2. Council Member Public Testimony on an SSLC Restructuring Commission — [Public Testimony — Senate Health and Human Services Committee SB 602](#)
- Federal Policy Activities — TCDD staff will provide an update regarding recent federal public policy issues. Discussion topics include:
  1. Medicaid Block Grants — The Outlook for Medicaid in 2017: Facing Cuts, Block Grants or Per Capital Caps?

**Public Policy Committee — Agenda Item 7****Expected Action:**

The Committee will receive updates on these items and may make recommendations for consideration by the Council.

**Council — Agenda Item 11. A.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report on the Public Policy Committee discussion.

## **Protect People with IDD Through Viable Provider Rates**

### **HCS Waiver Program: A Successful Alternative to State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)**

As demand for high cost institutions grew from the 1950s – 1980s, families and states successfully urged the federal government to authorize the Home and Community Services (HCS) Waiver program and allow states to offer less costly community services. As designed, the HCS program provides flexible services that accommodate changing needs over time, promotes quality of community life and helps families manage the lifelong responsibilities of supporting a loved one with significant disability. The Texas Home Living Waiver (TxHmL) program was added years later to provide mid-level services and serve as a bridge to more comprehensive services.

### **The Stability of the HCS and TxHmL Waiver Programs is in Jeopardy**

As a cost containment measure, HHSC is recommending a 21% rate cut to HCS and TxHmL Community First Choice (CFC) attendant and habilitation services (budget strategies A.3.1 and A.3.4).

HHSC officials indicate this 21% rate cut is justifiable because it equalizes the rate with lower rates in other programs. The lower rates in other programs are known to yield workforce shortages and high turnover. The proposed cuts to these services will have detrimental impact on the quality of care for people with intellectual disabilities and place them at risk of needing higher cost, residential placement.

Of note, the current rate of \$22.41/hour for attendant and habilitation services covers not only direct service worker wages, but other costs, including benefits, mileage, supervisory and quality assurance monitoring activities, recruitment and training costs, and professional liability.

### **Reasons Why the 21% Rate Cut Will Not Achieve Cost Savings**

- The 21% rate cut for HCS and TxHmL attendant and habilitation rates targets a successful, cost effective service that prevents costly institutional care for people with intellectual disabilities;
- Designed to meet the distinct needs of people with intellectual disabilities, the HCS and TxHmL programs have enabled the state to stop building more institutions and substantially reduced the number of people who live out their lives in institutional care;
- The success of the HCS and TxHmL programs depends on a stable, direct services workforce as the means to keep people out of higher cost residential programs;

- Inadequate direct service worker wages lead to higher turnover of direct service workers, lack of continuity of care, higher risk of abuse and neglect, and increased demand on group home or institutional care;
- The reimbursement rate for HCS and TxHmL CFC attendant and habilitation services is deliberately structured to keep turnover rates low and maintain continuity of care: allowing providers to attract workers with the nature, experience, and skills necessary to effectively support people with intellectual disabilities.

## **Why Are Direct Service Workers So Important For People With Intellectual Disabilities?**

### **Vulnerability to Mental Illness**

As cited in the 2015 Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2017 – 2021 (p. 27), individuals with intellectual disabilities are more vulnerable to mental illness than the general population. Although prevalence estimates vary, with citations as high as 70%, the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed reports that many professionals have adopted an estimate of 30 – 35% prevalence of psychiatric disorders among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### **Vulnerability to Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation**

Additionally, numerous studies that people with intellectual disabilities are at **high risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation**. A conversation with families, teachers, and other professionals who know and work with people with intellectual disabilities is all it takes to understand the scope of this risk. An individual with an intellectual disability is more likely to be isolated, dependent on a small circle of friends or caregivers, and perceived as an easy target. All of these factors add up to higher vulnerability for physical and sexual abuse. Compounding this challenge is the limited speaking ability that often accompanies an intellectual disability, creating a circumstance in which the individual has no way to talk about, describe, or report abuse.

None of these factors are a surprise to HCS and TxHmL providers who have supported people with intellectual disabilities in community for many years, but **decision-makers may not understand the important connection between a stable workforce, including direct service workers, and the provider's to successfully support a person with an intellectual disability in community**.

In fact, with the detrimental impact on direct service workers, the HHSC recommendation to cut the attendant and habilitation rates in the HCS and TxHmL programs runs counter to the stated goals of the state to more effectively support the unmet mental health needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Data in the table that follows is drawn directly from cost data included in Rider-directed state reports to the Legislature. A review of the data readily depicts the cost effectiveness of the comprehensive HCS Program (All Settings — including residential, host home and CFC supported home living). In 2015 the average monthly cost per person in the HCS Program) was \$3,522.26. The monthly cost per person represents the average payments paid by the state to HCS Providers per person served. That same year, the average monthly cost per person in an SSLC was \$17,637.46.

However, the real story — when it comes to the HHSC recommended 21% attendant and habilitation rate cut to the HCS program — is the fact that in 2005 the average monthly cost (average payments paid by the state to HCS Providers) per person in the HCS Program was \$3,621.08 and in 2015 the average monthly cost was \$3,522.26, a **3% reduction in cost to the state** over this 10 year span.

Defying the trend in rising healthcare costs, the HCS Program is clearly one of the most cost-effective investments the Legislature could make, in large measure due to the creative development of alternatives to group home settings and the important function of direct service workers. Yet this cost effective alternative to expensive institutional care is the very program HHSC recommends cutting.

In the final analysis, HHSC projects this HCS and TxHmL CFC attendant and habilitation rate cut will save the state \$24.2 million GR in payments for this service, but the unintended consequences of this action would place in jeopardy the safety and well-being of people with intellectual disabilities and set the stage for higher demand on more costly residential and institutional care.



**IDD Services by Program: Average Monthly Costs (per person served)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Number of Enrollees (average monthly) and Rider Number</b>	<b>SSLCs</b>	<b>ICF/IID</b>	<b>HCS All Settings<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>TxHmL</b>
<b>FY2016 Enrollees</b>	3,083	4,984	26,624	6,822
<b>Rider 21 FY 2015 Data</b>	\$17,637.46	\$4,209.81	\$3,522.26	\$913.81
<b>Rider 23 FY 2013 Data</b>	\$14,143.81	\$4,225.45	\$3,472.29	\$872.61
<b>Rider 28 FY 2011 Data</b>	\$13,119.84	\$4,466.49	\$3,465.31	\$678.94
<b>Rider 31 FY 2009 Data</b>	\$9,906.71	\$4,395.76	\$3,443.06	\$594.95
<b>Rider 40 FY 2007 Data</b>	\$343.39	\$137.27	\$105.99	\$14.94
<b>Rider 44 FY 2005 Data</b>	\$9,292.20	\$3,815.58	\$3,621.08	\$281.11

<sup>1</sup> Rider 40 (FY2007) reported daily costs.

<sup>2</sup> HCS All Settings includes costs for persons served across the entire service array (i.e., residential, host home and CFC attendant and habilitation services).

## **Strengthen Early Childhood Intervention for Texas Children House Bill 3930**

### **Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program Is At Risk**

The Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program provides services to children under age three with disabilities or developmental delays. Services such as physical and speech therapy help children learn to walk and communicate. By intervening as early as possible to increase a child's ability to reach developmental milestones, ECI is extremely efficient, reducing the tax burden on the state and school systems later in life.

This important program for Texas families faces significant pressures, including:

- Underfunding Texas children of all incomes are eligible for ECI based on medical diagnoses or severity of developmental delays. Unlike other states, Texas does not require private insurance companies to cover most ECI services. Consequently, Texas disproportionately relies on State General Revenue and local funds to cover costs of services for Texas children, including those with private insurance.
- Increasing population As the Texas population grows, the ECI program serves an increasing number of children. On average, the program served approximately 1,200 more children per month in FY 2015 than in FY 2012, for a total of 50,634 children receiving comprehensive services in FY 2015.
- Decreasing provider base ECI providers are terminating contracts at an alarming rate due to underfunding and other financial pressures, leaving many families without reliable access to these services.

### **Private insurance offers an opportunity to improve fiscal stability**

As noted in the Legislative Budget Board's 2017 Staff Report, private insurance offers an opportunity to stabilize costs of the ECI program and reduce pressure on state General Revenue funds.

In FY 2015, speech therapy and specialized skills training (training to correct deficits and teach compensatory skills) made up most of the therapies provided by the ECI program. In Texas, private insurance companies do not provide coverage for specialized skills training and most major insurance companies do not typically provide coverage for speech therapy services for children with developmental delays, unless the delay can be linked to a medical diagnosis (rare in such young children). Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, on the other hand, are required to cover almost all such services.



**House Bill 3930 would maximize non-state sources of revenue for the ECI program**  
House Bill 3930 (Representative Rick Miller) seeks to maximize non-state sources of revenue for the ECI program by requiring most private insurance companies to cover certain ECI services, including speech therapy and specialized skills training, when authorized in a child's Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP).

By requiring private insurance companies to cover ECI services under certain circumstances, Texas would join other states, establish equity between private insurance companies and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, and take an important step toward fiscal stability for an important early intervention program for Texas children.





## **The Outlook for Medicaid in 2017: Facing Cuts, Block Grants or Per Capital Caps?**

### **What is Medicaid?**

Medicaid is the nation's primary health insurance program for people with disabilities and low-income populations. The program currently covers over 10 million non-elderly people with disabilities.

Medicaid is a lifeline for most people with significant disabilities who generally do not have access to employer-based or other private coverage, have greater medical needs, and often require assistance with activities of daily living throughout their lifetimes. For many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), Medicaid generally is the only source of funds for them to live and work in the community with friends and families and avoid more costly and segregated nursing homes or institutions. Nationwide, state and federal Medicaid together provide over 75% of the funding for services for people with I/DD.

### **How is Medicaid Currently Structured?**

Medicaid is a jointly funded program with matching state and federal funds. The federal government pays for nearly 60 percent of the cost, though the match rate varies from state to state. Under the current structure the federal government has a commitment to help states cover costs, and in turn states are required to provide specific benefits to certain groups of people, including individuals with disabilities.

The federal match varies by state and the rate is based in part on the poverty or economic status of the state's population. The rate ranges from a federal match of 50 percent to a high of up to 74 percent. When a state spends funds on providing eligible beneficiaries with services, then the state is guaranteed reimbursement from the federal Medicaid program at the state match rate. If a state increases its Medicaid spending, the Federal funding will also increase. Within the basic requirements of the program, states have substantial flexibility to administer the program and to add services and additional beneficiary categories.

### **What is a Medicaid Block Grant?**

A block grant is a funding structure that provides states with a set amount of federal money to fund its Medicaid program. A block grant would effectively end the flexible state and federal partnership. States would be responsible for covering the costs beyond the federal allotment. Deep cuts in federal spending on Medicaid and block grants would be a cost shift to already cash strapped states. This may force states to reduce eligibility, limit services and supports, cut reimbursement to providers, or any number of methods to save

money in the Medicaid program. In addition to forcing bad choices, block grants are likely to cause substantial conflict as groups with diverse needs compete for scarce dollars.

The need for health care and long-term services and supports will not disappear if federal spending is reduced. Many states have waiting lists for services, in some states numbering in the tens of thousands. Without the federal investment, these lists would grow, and those receiving supports would be at risk of a cut in benefits.

Federal policy makers would need to make key policy choices that will determine levels of federal financing as well as federal and state requirements around eligibility, benefits, state matching requirements, and beneficiary protections. A block grant would not adjust to increased coverage needs as the result of an aging population or during bad economic times. Block grants would not adjust to changes in health care, drug costs, or emergencies.

### **What is a Medicaid Per Capita Cap?**

Under a Medicaid per capita cap, the federal government would set a limit on how much to reimburse states per enrollee. Unlike a block grant approach, which provides a fixed amount of federal spending regardless of enrollment, payments to states could reflect changes in enrollment. However, a per capita cap model would not account for changes in the costs per enrollee beyond the cost growth limit. To achieve federal savings, the per capita growth amounts would be set below the projected rates of growth. A per capita cap would have a similar effect on the level of funding available to the state as the block grant approach.

### **What is at Stake for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities?**

States will receive less federal support to administer Medicaid if either or both of these approaches are enacted into law. While there is no way to be certain about what states would do if faced with block grants and reduced federal funds, we know there will be real life consequences for people with I/DD, such as:

- Losing home and community-based services and supports. Waiting lists would quickly grow and it could create a crisis for the over 730,000 people with I/DD living with aging caregivers.
- Losing other critical services such as personal care, prescription drugs, and rehabilitative services. If funds become more scarce, states may decide to stop providing these services altogether. Medicaid usually is the only way people can get access to durable medical equipment like wheelchairs or prosthetic devices, as well as assistive technology.
- Being forced into unnecessary institutionalization. States could return to the days of “warehousing” people with disabilities in institutions. Federal quality standards would be diminished or eliminated and states might once again see this as an

acceptable option, finding it easier or more economical to serve people when they are “all together in one place.”

- Shifting the costs to individuals or family members to make up for the federal cuts. The costs of providing health care and long-term services and supports will not go away, but will be shifted to individuals, parents, states, and providers.
- If cost sharing levels are increased, people may be forced to forego lifesaving treatments, therapies, and medical care.
- Losing the entitlement to Medicaid. Currently if a person meets the eligibility requirements (generally poverty, age, and/or disability), he or she is entitled to the services available under the state Medicaid program. People could lose all access to health care services.
- Children will lose valuable screening, services, and therapies if the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment benefit is dismantled. Access to these important services enable children to lead healthy and more active lives and continue to live at home with their families.

Be a part of The Arc’s Disability Advocacy Network to fight these cuts to Medicaid — sign up here: <http://cqrcengage.com/thearc/app/register?0&m=10985>

### **Key Block Grant Message Points**

States would likely consider reducing eligibility, limiting services and supports, and/or cutting reimbursement to providers to save money.

It passes the buck to already cash-strapped states.

Waiting lists for services would be worse.

It would not adjust to changes in health care, drug costs, aging of the population, or emergencies.

December, 2016

**Background:**

The Council will review the minutes from the February 10, 2017, Council meeting and the February 9, 2017, Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Council — Agenda Item 3****Expected Action:**

The Council will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

### **February 10, 2017 — MINUTES**

#### Council Members Present

Mary Durham, Council Chair  
Hunter Adkins  
Zack Ahonle, UT-CDS  
Kimberly Blackmon  
Juliet Charron, HHSC/Medicaid  
Kristine Clark  
Gladys Cortez  
Kristen Cox  
Mateo Delgado  
Mary Faithfull, DRT  
Sue Fielder, HHSC/Older  
Americans Act  
Stephen Gersuk  
Ivy Goldstein, DSHS/Maternal-  
Child Health  
Ruth Mason  
Scott McAvoy  
Michael Peace  
Meagan Sumner, A&M —  
CDD  
Lora Taylor  
David Taylor  
John Thomas  
Rick Tisch

#### Council Members Absent

Jennifer Kaut, TWC/Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
Dana Perry  
Brandon Pharris  
Ron Roberts, TEA/IDEA

#### Guests Present

Lisa Akers-Owen, HHSC/Older  
Americans Act  
Isabel Evans  
Alexandra Noble  
Rona Statman  
Dana Williamson, HHSC

#### Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive  
Director  
Martha Cantu  
Joanna Cordry  
Cynthia Ellison  
Danny Fikac  
Ashley Ford  
Jessica Ramos  
Joshua Ryf  
Koren Vogel

#### **Call To Order**

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Friday, February 10, 2017, in the Hill Country B Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown, 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, TX 78752. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

##### **1. Introductions**

Council members, staff and guests were introduced. It was noted that Lisa Akers-Owen is the new designated representative from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for the Older Americans Act program, however she has not been through orientation and is not eligible to vote. Alternate from that program Sue Fielder has been through orientation and is present as the voting member. Juliet Charron was also introduced as the new designated alternate from HHSC representing the Title XIX/Medicaid programs and she has attended orientation. Jami Snyder has been designated as the representative from that program but was not in attendance. Charron,



Akers-Owen, and Fielder provided background information about their positions and programs.

**2. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

**3. Consent Items**

Chair Durham reviewed consent items including the minutes from the November 4, 2016, Council meeting and November 3, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting and the excused absences of Jennifer Kaut, DARS; Dana Perry; Brandon Pharris; and Ron Roberts, TEA.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the November 3, 2016, Council meeting and November 2, 2016, Committee of the Whole meeting as well as the excused absences as noted.

**MADE BY:** Kris Clark

**SECOND:** Michael Peace

The motion **passed** unanimously.

**4. Chair & Executive Director's Report**

Chair Durham reviewed the policy for Council member absences and asked for members who have frequent absences to consider their position and if they are still able to meet their obligations. She reported that she and Executive Director Beth Stalvey met with Gaby Fuentes of the Governor's Appointments Office in late December and were informed that there are not many applications for the Council and several do not meet the criteria to serve. They further discussed DD Act requirements for geographic representation as well as membership that reflects the diversity of the state with respect to race and ethnicity. Outreach will continue for applicants and appointments will be considered on an ongoing basis. Members were encouraged to refer anyone who may be interested and Stalvey added that applications must be submitted to the Governor's office, however TCDD staff are happy to answer any questions from potential applicants and assist where appropriate.

Durham offered congratulations to Dalun Zhang, Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development, for his recent award of an AIDD Fellowship.

Members discussed their visits with legislators and staff at the Texas Capitol. Lora Taylor and Ruth Mason expressed their gratitude to TCDD staff for facilitating visits and preparing material about TCDD priorities. It was noted that legislative staff were receptive to employment issues and any additional data on TCDD employment projects would be helpful at future visits. Stalvey again offered staff support for any further visits

or advocacy efforts that members would like to make.

Stalvey recognized Cynthia Ellison for ten years of service and Jessica Ramos for five years of service to TCDD. She provided additional staff updates to note that Sonya Hosey is on extended medical leave and has applied for disability retirement status.

Applications have been received and interviews will be conducted for vacancies in the Grants Management division. She also noted that Megan Regis is no longer employed with TCDD as a Public Policy Specialist. Two interns have been selected to work part-time with TCDD on a contract basis in the public policy and communications areas.

Jeremy Cana is a senior at the University of Texas studying Government and Chris Frasier is a senior at St. Edwards studying Environmental Science and Policy. Stalvey also reported that due to a change in the administrative needs of the agency, Fernando Rodriguez will now serve as an Operations Assistant and will provide more general support to all divisions in addition to grants management and planning.

Stalvey reported that the Annual Program Performance Report was submitted on December 31, 2016. She provided highlights of the FY 2016 activities that were noted in the report including:

- A. Seven new executive summaries; eight new projects
- B. 25 organizations conducting 28 projects
- C. 15 original articles on disability related topics
- D. 477 families and 15 speakers supported through stipends
- E. Staff outreach at nine events to 427 people with 120 community stakeholders
- F. 52% increase in Facebook and social media outreach
- G. 37 transportation advocates
- H. 745 involved in health and fitness projects
- I. Over 150 students enrolled and supported in higher education
- J. Ten new products and over 1700 trained on Supported Decision Making

The Partners in Policymaking project has progressed to marketing to the public. Social media sites are available and the website is now live. Applications for participants will be accepted through May 1, 2017. The Project Advisory Group will assist the project team and TCDD staff members in the selection of class participants.

TCDD recently received an upgrade of leased computer equipment with updated software, coordinated through Texas Education Agency. Staff members are expanding their use the video-conference equipment including the GoToMeeting software. The Nominating Committee meeting was conducted with this technology and received positive feedback.

Upcoming conferences including the Disability Policy Seminar in March in Washington, DC and the NACDD Conference in July in Salt Lake City, UT. Members who wish to attend should contact Stalvey or Durham.

**5. Election of Council Vice-Chair**

Nominating Committee Chair Rick Tisch reported on Committee discussion and the recommendation of John Thomas as Council Vice-Chair. No other nominations were offered from the Council.

**MOTION:** To elect John Thomas as Council Vice-Chair.

**MADE BY:** Rick Tisch for the Nominating Committee. (motions from Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously.

**6. Election of Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee**

Tisch reported on Committee discussion and the recommendation to continue Michael Peace as the Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee. No other nominations were offered from the Council.

**MOTION:** To elect Michael Peace as Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

**MADE BY:** Rick Tisch for the Nominating Committee.

The motion **passed** unanimously.

**7. Future Project Funding Priorities**

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported that the Committee discussed the Future Project Funding Priorities document and with no new proposed projects for the quarter, there was no change in the priority to implement projects.

**8. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion**

Chair Durham reminded members that ongoing efforts to address disproportionalities and disparities will include discussions at each meeting. The focus of this quarter's discussion centered on disparities for English Language Learners (ELL) who need and/or receive special education services.

Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor reported on that Committee discussion and Ruth Mason discussed her previous efforts to gain information on ELL students receiving special education. Mason became aware of a cultural hesitation to challenge authority so she submitted an Open Records Request to one school district in the Houston area and learned that no students in ELL classes were receiving special education services. She

plans to continue investigation and advocacy on this disparity. Meagan Sumner of Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development discussed the potential impact for all school faculty by training school administrators in social justice with the expectation for them to set the tone on the campus. It was noted that a new training center for administrators is being established in Austin and could be a potential partner to provide this type of training.

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported on that Committee discussion of Senate Bill 98 which would eliminate the requirement and funding for bilingual special education services and make it optional to provide services in the primary language for schools with 20 or more students speaking that language. The Committee discussed reports of school districts denying special education services to Vietnamese speaking students and the implication that these practices are in violation of federal law. The Committee directed staff to gather additional information for future discussion.

Executive Director Stalvey reported that in conjunction with the DD Network Partners, TCDD has applied to NACDD to participate in an academy that focuses on disparities and the application was focused on this specific topic of disparities of ELL students receiving special education.

#### **9. Communications and Marketing Activities Report**

Communications Director Joshua Ryf provided updates on communications activities from the past quarter. He discussed highlights of social media posts and noted that posts about cuts to Medicaid therapy rates and special education performance measures reached over 4,000 people. Ryf reviewed the marketing of grantee activities, noting that the Partners in Policymaking is now available on social media with a website that is now live and accepting applications. He reminded members that March is DD Awareness month and discussed the #SideBySideTx social media campaign where people are encouraged to share photos of individuals with disabilities participating in inclusive activities and to use the hashtag to include those photos in the campaign.

Ryf and Executive Assistant Koren Vogel discussed Vogel's recent trip to El Paso where she attended the Volar Center for Independent Living Conference and conducted focus groups with transition age students in the Socorro Independent School District and with adults at the Volar Center. Issues addressed in these focus groups included independent living skills, job training, and the need for better transportation, attendant care and vocational rehabilitation services.

Ryf reviewed various activities taking place from February to April and reminded members to share ideas, promote funding opportunities, recruit Council members, and encourage others to connect with TCDD via email and social media.

#### **10. Executive Committee Report**

Chair Durham reported new grant funding that was awarded during the Executive Committee meeting to SAFE Alliance, Mounting Horizons and Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (EPIC) for Youth Leadership Development projects. Seven event stipends and two speaker stipends were awarded this quarter.

The Committee approved two new individuals to the pool of potential Independent Review Panel members.

Operations Director Martha Cantu reviewed the quarterly financial reports and noted that administrative expenses for FY 2017 are on track for year-to-date expenditures with 22% of the budget spent. She reviewed the Summary of Funds report and noted that the negative balance for FY 2016 funds will not remain in the negative as staff have identified grant project that will not spend all allocated funds. The negative balance for FY 2017 will also not remain because funds are held for planned projects that have not been awarded. The Executive Committee members did not express any concerns with the agency financial reports.

The Committee reviewed Conflict of Interest disclosures and no concerns were noted.

Members were reminded that they will soon receive notification from the Texas Ethics Commission that Personal Financial Statements for 2016 will be due at the end of April. The form is currently available at the Texas Ethics Commission website. There is a \$500 fine for not submitting this information.

#### **11. Project Development Committee Report**

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported on Committee discussion of project sustainability. Staff provided information to the Committee on discussions with past grantees regarding project success, barriers, ongoing activities and sustainability. Seven projects reported continued activities and it was noted that Project DOCC of Houston which ended in FY 2010 has not only expanded but has added additional partners.

#### **12. Public Policy Committee Report**

Public Policy Committee Chair Taylor reported on members' discussion of their current activities. Kris Clark discussed efforts to establish a continuing education program for adults with disabilities in the San Antonio area that is modeled after a program in Plano and is scheduled to begin in July. Public Policy Committee members also discussed Public Policy staff activities and reviewed legislation pending in the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

#### **13. State Agency Representatives Quarterly Activities Report**

Disability Rights Texas (DRTx) representative Mary Faithfull reported that DRTx is focused on the legislative session. She also noted that a revised IDEA manual is now available on the DRTx website with the Spanish translation in progress.

Texas Center for Disability Services (TCDS) representative Zack Ahonle reported that TCDS is writing the five-year strategic plan, has established a demonstration center for the Assistive Technology lab, and is developing a program on healthy weight and systemic change in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control.

A&M CDD representative Sumbera reported on activities within the four core functions in that program. She discussed replications of higher education models that will be implemented at ten universities in the future as part of the TCDD Higher Education Collaborative project. She also discussed a program entitled “Aggie Ability Awareness” that teaches disability history and awareness and has had a high level of interest and could be expanded to the graduate level. Sumbera also reported on the development of Person Centered Planning and Purposeful Life trainings.

HHSC/Medicaid alternate representative Juliet Charron reported that over 160,000 children have been enrolled in the STAR Kids program since its implementation in the fall of 2016. She also noted that revisions are being made to the Community First Choice assessment to maintain consistency across programs and that the Person Centered Planning website should be up in the next two weeks. Charron noted that an updated transition plan for Home and Community Based Services was submitted to the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 18, 2016 that focuses on day-habilitation services and changes to this service will be dependent on final budget appropriations.

HHSC/Older Americans Act representative Lisa Akers-Owen noted that she is excited to be able to leverage the available supports for their programs from HHSC following their transformation from the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)/Title V/Maternal Child Health alternate representative Ivy Goldstein reported that the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CHSCN) Systems Development Group continues with contracts for ongoing needs assessments, case management, and family services.

#### **14. Announcements and Updates**

Council members discussed dates and locations of future meetings of May 3–5, 2017 (Sheraton Georgetown), August 24, 2017 (Hilton Austin Airport), November 1–3, 2017 and February 7–9, 2018.

### **Adjourn**

Council Chair Durham adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council      Date

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE February 9, 2017 — MINUTES**

### **Council Members Present**

Mary Durham, Council Chair  
Hunter Adkins  
Kimberly Blackmon  
Kristine Clark  
Gladys Cortez  
Kristen Cox  
Mateo Delgado  
Stephen Gersuk  
Ivy Goldstein, DSHS/Maternal  
and Child Health  
Ruth Mason  
Scott McAvoy  
Michael Peace  
Dana Perry  
Ron Roberts, TEA/IDEA  
Amy Sharp, UT CDS  
Meagan Sumner, A&M CDD  
David Taylor  
Lora Taylor  
Richard Tisch  
John Thomas

### **Council Members Absent**

Lisa Akers-Owen, HHSC/Older  
Americans Act  
Jennifer Kaut, TWC/Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
Dana Perry  
Brandon Pharris  
Jami Snyder, HHSC/Medicaid

### **Guests Present**

Jan Brown, JAS  
Isabel Evans  
Ted Johnson, JAS  
Mike Mason  
William Mason  
Alexandra Noble  
Jason Sabo

### **Staff Present**

Beth Stalvey, Executive  
Director  
Joanna Cordry  
Danny Fikac  
Ashley Ford  
Linda Logan  
Jessica Ramos  
Joshua Ryf  
Koren Vogel

### **Call To Order**

The Committee of the Whole of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, February 9, 2017, in the Hill Country B Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown, 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, TX 78752. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

#### **1. Introductions**

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

#### **2. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered. Members provided personal updates. It was noted that the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities is seeking help with a video on accessible parking. Contract staff from Johnson Applied Solutions reported that the Texas Partners in Policymaking website is live and applications for the program are available and will be accepted until May 1, 2017.

**3. Review of Public Policy Priorities**

Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos provided background information for members in preparation for legislative visits scheduled that afternoon. She discussed the budget proposals including the differences in appropriations bills filed by the Senate and the House of Representatives. She noted that the biennial revenue estimate is \$105 billion but the cost to maintain the current level of services is \$109 billion and factoring in growth sees an increase to \$111 billion. So there is an essential \$6 billion shortfall. The legislature will have to consider options such as cost containment and utilizing the “Rainy Day” fund to cover the shortfall.

Ramos discussed the “elevator speech” strategy when making legislative visits and reviewed the materials that TCDD staff prepared to support members. The materials include documents that can be left behind with legislative staff on key TCDD priorities such as Employment, State Supported Living Center Consolidation and Closure, and Interest List Reduction. Ramos reviewed general discussion points on each of these topics.

**4. Public Policy Advocacy Strategies**

Jason Sabo of Frontera Strategy discussed the current political climate of the 85th Texas Legislature. He noted that divisions with the legislature are more within the Senate and House of Representatives than the political parties. He reviewed the emergency priorities of the Governor as well as the select priorities of the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House noting that those priorities are vastly different. Sabo also discussed the state budget and reminded members that 84% of general revenue is spent on education and health and human services which makes the request for additional funding for those programs unpopular with legislators. He noted that a primary question will be if the legislature is willing to access the “Rainy Day” fund to pay for services.

Sabo provided his recommendations for effective advocacy during the 85th Texas Legislature including developing a practical approach with realistic expectations. He suggested building credible research (e.g., how many individuals with IDD are employed) and was complimentary on the TCDD legislative material provided for members. He acknowledged that members were a resource and encouraged them to offer their experiences to legislative staff and to be persistent in requesting follow-up or subsequent visits.

**Adjourn**

Members were reminded of transportation options to the Texas Capitol. Council Chair Durham adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 1:00 PM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council      Date



## Communications and Marketing Activities Report

Tab 14

### **Background:**

TCDD Communications Director Joshua Ryf will provide an update on communications and marketing activities for the previous quarter. Data and details of these activities are included in the enclosed report.

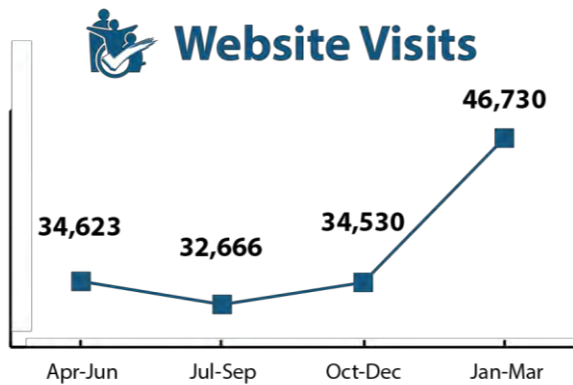
### **Council — Agenda Item 8**

#### **Expected Action:**

The Council will discuss the report and may provide further guidance to staff.

# Communications and Marketing Activities Report — May 2017

## Website

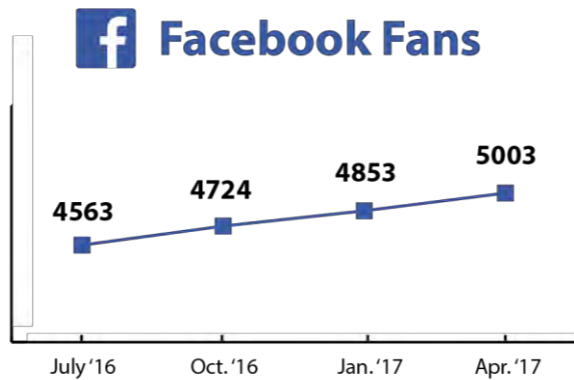


### Top 20 Webpages Visited

Pages highlighted in **bold** feature original TCDD content designed to educate the public.

Webpage	Number of Visits
Total webpage visits for quarter	46,730
<b>People First Language</b>	4,473
Home Page	4,125
<b>Workplace Bullying: Know Your Rights</b>	3,338
<b>Updated Texas Service Dog Law 14 Facts for 2014</b>	2,635
Texas Legislature	2,365
<b>Supported Decision-Making</b>	1,050
<b>What is a Developmental Disability?</b>	734
<b>Legislative Advocacy Tips</b>	732
Funding Available	688
<b>Get Ready for the 85th Texas Legislative Session</b>	688
<b>Guardianship Alternatives</b>	667
<b>Legislative Bill Tracking</b>	612
Texas Partners in Policymaking Seeks Applicants	600
<b>Update: Autism Services in Texas</b>	462
Side-By-Side Texas	443
Side-By-Side Texas Toolkit	392
Publications and Multimedia	363
Current Grant Projects	360
News and Information	359
About Us	350

## Facebook

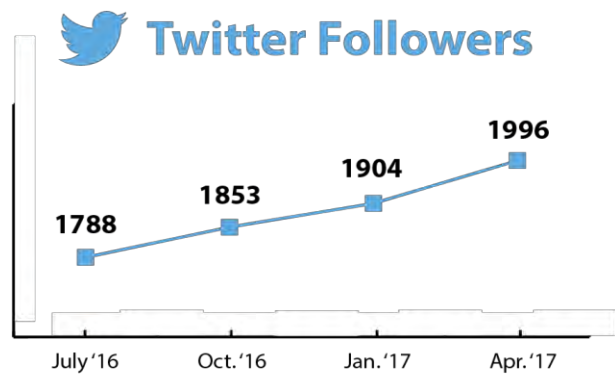


## Top Facebook Posts

Post Message	Total Reach
BREAKING: The Supreme Court Rules In Favor Of A Special Education Student	5,748
Students at The University of Texas at Austin elected a person with a disability to be student body president.	3,770
Texas Partners in Policymaking Seeks Applicants	3,103
Unable to get special education services in Texas, one family moved to Pennsylvania	2,723
Medicaid expansion tied to employment among people with disabilities	2,313
For these twins, inclusion comes naturally. #SideBySideTX	2,009
HELP AVAILABLE TO RESOLVE MEDICAID ISSUES	2,006
Denied: Special ed cap drives families out of public schools	1,946
Governor's DD Awareness Month Proclamation Emphasizes Inclusion	1,855
Expecting spike in special ed students, advocates push for better services	1,855
GUARDIANSHIP BILLS: COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY	1,852
Autism Documentary To Premiere On A&E	1,801
This is Parker (left) and his friend, Derek. #SideBySideTX	1,751
New voices for those who use computers to speak.	1,679
Orlando's Pro Bowl will set precedent for being 'autism-friendly'	1,657
LORA TAYLOR: ACCESSIBLE PARKING ADVOCATE	1,578
TCDD Council members are meeting with their legislators today to discuss important disability-related issues.	1,483

*Reach: the number of unique people who received impressions of a Page post*

## Twitter



### Top Twitter Tweets

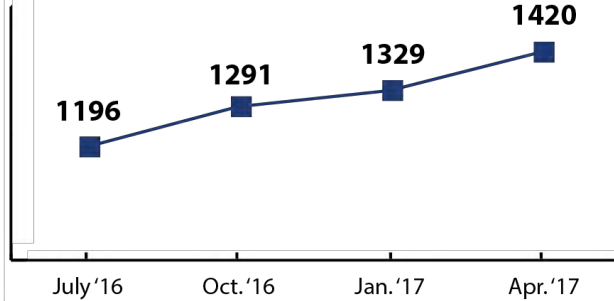
Tweet	Total Impressions
@Google highlights disability rights and independent living movement pioneer Ed Roberts with today's Google Doodle.	1,767
Share best practices at the 2017 @NACDD Annual Conference in Utah. The theme is "A Quality Life: Count Me In!"	1,471
Deadline next week to submit presentation proposals for the 2017 @NACDD Annual Conference in Utah. Due Jan. 31.	1,204
ICYMI: Share best practices at the 2017 @NACDD Annual Conference in Utah. The theme is A Quality Life: Count Me In!	1,189
Senate Finance Committee to accept testimony regarding public education and health & human services budgets: <a href="https://t.co/1rt32Oyhc">https://t.co/1rt32Oyhc</a> #txlege	1,042
Senate Health & Human Services Committee to hold hearing Wednesday (8:30 a.m.). Watch online. More info: <a href="https://t.co/Qg6TvkJLL">https://t.co/Qg6TvkJLL</a> #txlege	1,021
.@TxDOT events in Lubbock & Amarillo tomorrow to get input to improve #transportation for people with #disabilities: <a href="https://t.co/gSuUZ9aJLj">https://t.co/gSuUZ9aJLj</a>	956
TCDD Council members visited over 20 legislative offices to #advocate for disability-related issues: <a href="https://t.co/U49KxBIRI9">https://t.co/U49KxBIRI9</a> #txlege	906
Public meetings: Special Education Continuing Advisory Committee & Medical Care Advisory Committee. <a href="https://t.co/bvdGuGV09b">https://t.co/bvdGuGV09b</a> #advocacy #Texas	895
ICYMI: @TXWorkforce to host Benefits of #Hiring People With #Disabilities Business Forum in Austin on Jan. 25. More: <a href="https://t.co/pCLE1stm76">https://t.co/pCLE1stm76</a>	879
.@TxDOT in Abilene & San Angelo tomorrow to get input to improve #transportation for people with #disabilities: <a href="https://t.co/gSuUZ8T8mJ">https://t.co/gSuUZ8T8mJ</a>	865

Impressions: the number of times a tweet has been seen

## Email



### Email Subscribers



### Email Messages

Below are some of the emails that were sent to eNews subscribers.

Email Subject	Opens	Clicks
HHSC Submits Exceptional Items to Senate Finance Committee	31.53%	4.74%
Advocacy Opportunities in Texas (Sent January 12, 2017)	31.41%	4.11%
Texas Partners in Policymaking Seeks Applicants	29.23%	4.57%
Upcoming HHS Meetings (Sent January 19, 2017)	28.07%	4.09%
HHSC Submits Exceptional Items to House Appropriations Committee	28.00%	2.88%
HHSC Meetings Next Week (Sent February 2, 2017)	27.56%	2.42%
Advocacy Opportunities: February	26.47%	2.21%
House Appropriations Committee to Hold Public Hearings	26.44%	2.02%
Legislative Hearings: February 27 & 28	26.42%	1.89%
TCDD Council & Committee Meetings: February 8-10, 2017	25.96%	2.99%
Legislative Hearings: March 6-9	25.59%	1.80%
Get Social with Side-By-Side Texas!	25.51%	2.04%

### I and R Requests and Distribution

**Information and Referral (I and R) Requests:** Staff responded to 76 requests for information and referral.

### Printed Materials Distributed

- Funding Opportunities: 50
- Become A Council Member: 50
- Extending Health Insurance for an Adult Child: 50
- Impact: TCDD 2014 Annual Report in English: 5
- Impact: TCDD 2014 Annual Report in Spanish: 4

- People First Language Handout: 131
- Biennial Disability Report in English: 3
- Biennial Disability Report in Spanish: 1
- Higher Education Guide in English: 91
- Higher Education Guide in Spanish: 72
- Alternatives to Guardianship: Supported Decision-Making: 125
- Next Step DVD: 95
- Next Step DVD Booklet: 50
- #SideBySideTX Flyer: 2

## **Marketing and Outreach**

### **#SideBySideTX**



Side-By-Side Texas is a social media campaign conducted during Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month (March). The campaign is designed to raise awareness about the importance of inclusion of people of all abilities. All over Texas, people with and without disabilities make contributions to their communities, participate in meaningful employment, and have fun together — side-by-side.

TCDD has participated in DD Awareness Month campaigns for a number of years and 2017 was the second year of the Side-By-Side Texas campaign. The campaign is conducted by TCDD with our DD Network Partners. In the first year of the campaign, the primary audience was people already in our existing networks (email subscribers, Facebook fans, and Twitter followers). In 2017, we expanded beyond our audiences and reached out to other state agencies, disability organizations, special education directors, and more.

#### **2017 campaign highlights:**

- Campaign headquarters: TCDD's website was the primary place to find information about the campaign. In 2016, all of the DD Network Partners featured information about the campaign on their websites. With just one website serving as the landing spot for the campaign, the DD Network Partners could direct their followers to the same place.
- Toolkit: TCDD developed a digital toolkit to help organizations spread the word about the campaign to their audiences. The toolkit featured sample content for social media and email, banners for social media platforms, and a flyer.
- State agency partnerships:
  - TWC: TCDD and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) collaborated to develop a blog post and social media content that was published by TWC.

- GCPD: TCDD and the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) collaborated to draft a Governor's Proclamation that was issued by Governor Greg Abbott. GCPD also shared information about the campaign with their audience.
- Disability organizations that participated:
  - TCDD connections: the Joseph Thomas Foundation (Council member John Thomas' organization), the H.E.A.R.T. Program (TCDD grantee), and the Marbridge Foundation (Council member Scott McAvoy's organization) all posted numerous photos during the campaign.
  - Other organizations: The Arc of Texas, Eva's Heroes, Texas Advocates, the Rise School of Austin, Down Home Ranch, the Center Houston, East Texas ADRC, Pursuit, The Arc of Greater Beaumont, The Arc of Greater Houston, Joint Base San Antonio Exceptional Family Member Program, REACH, Inc., Texas Rehabilitation Association, Southeast Texas Self Advocates, Austin-Travis County Integral Care, The Arc of Fort Bend.
- Non-disability organizations that participated: Texoma Council of Governments, Immanuel Baptist Church, Southwest Key, and American Junior Rodeo Association.

### **Upcoming events**

- May – Mental Health Awareness Month
- World MS Day – May 27
- June 16-17 – Texas Parent to Parent Conference (San Marcos)
- June 18 – Autistic Pride Day
- July 26 – ADA Anniversary

### **Blog Posts**



#### **HHSC Submits Exceptional Items to Senate Finance Committee**

This week, HHSC submitted its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) to the Senate Finance Committee. Learn about the exceptional items included in the LAR that may impact people with disabilities.



#### **New App puts People with IDD in Control at Super Bowl**

A new easy to use inventory tracking app helped people with IDD completely operate six Papa John's kitchens at Super Bowl LI. And that's just the beginning of what may be possible with the i4me app.



#### **Texas Partners in Policymaking Seeks Applicants**

Texas Partners in Policymaking is an advanced leadership development training program for self-advocates and parents of children with DD. The deadline to apply for the 2017–2018 class is May 1, 2017.



#### **HHSC Submits Exceptional Items to House Appropriations Committee**

This week, HHSC submitted its exceptional items request to the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Article II. Learn about the differences and similarities between this and previous requests.





### **Council Members Visit Legislators**

In February, TCDD Council members visited with their legislators at the Texas State Capitol to advocate for important disability-related issues and to offer themselves as a resource.



### **Get Involved in #SideBySideTX**

People from around the state are encouraged to participate in Side-By-Side Texas, a social media campaign designed to raise awareness about the importance of inclusion of people of all abilities.



### **Governor's DD Awareness Month Proclamation Emphasizes Inclusion**

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a proclamation recognizing March as DD Awareness Month in Texas. The proclamation highlights how Texas is stronger when people of all abilities are included in community life.



### **TCDD Seeks Grant Review Panel Members**

Grant review panels may include people with disabilities, family members, and professionals who evaluate proposals, participate in a meeting, and ultimately develop funding recommendations to the Council.



**Background:**

TCDD solicits, on an ongoing basis, qualified individuals who can serve on the Independent Review Panels that evaluate proposals received in response to Requests for Proposals (RFPs). In order to have a large enough pool of potential reviewers, a database of approved individuals is maintained. The Executive Committee reviews and approves individuals to be included in the reviewer pool at each meeting. Planning Director Joanna Cordry and Planning Specialist Danny Fikac will provide information about individuals who recently applied to be reviewers. This information includes the name, areas of expertise, and city of the potential new reviewers. This information is provided behind this tab sheet.

The Executive Committee will be asked to make a final determination on any additions to the list of potential reviewers.

**Executive Committee — Agenda Item 10****Expected Action:**

The Executive Committee will consider this information, and make a final determination about the applicant.

**Council — Agenda Item 10. D.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee decisions.



**TO:** Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Danny Fikac, Planning Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Approving New Applications for RFP Review Panelists  
**DATE:** May 3, 2017

TCDD staff received one new applications to be a TCDD RFP Review Panel member. The document behind this memo includes the new applicant's name, location and qualifications. As TCDD develops new projects and moves forward with its new five-year plan, it is necessary to continue to add to the eligible panel members in order to have a diverse independent review panel with expertise in various subject matters

## TCDD RFP Review Panel members

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Alexander	Julie	Keller	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability and a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. I have a brother with borderline schizophrenia/depression, a brother with depression/bipolar disorder and a father with severe depression.</p> <p>My work experience in the last five years has been primarily in special education. I have training in alternative education (alternative schools). I have been a part of a school's AdvancED Accreditation committee and campus leadership team. I have worked as a special education teacher for the past seven years with individuals with various types of disabilities like autism, mental health differences and learning disabilities. Currently, I am a Keller ISD inclusion/resource math teacher for 5th-grade special education students. I am currently participating in the Keller ISD Leadership Development Academy. Additionally, I have also volunteered for 7 years with individuals with disabilities at a respite program. While with Denson ISD, I wrote one educational grant.</p> <p>I will complete my master's degree in special education in August 2017. The emphasis of it is in Autism.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Best	Shaun	Beaumont	<p>I have a disability. In 1977, due to an accident resulting in a traumatic brain injury I was in a three-month coma. I have received a Bachelor of Business Management from University of Arkansas, Monticello, Arkansas and received Hotel Management Certification from Southern Arkansas University-Tech. In Arkansas, I was appointed to the National Organization of Disability (1994-98).</p> <p>Since Arkansas refused to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, I wrote a book "The Best Quest" this difficulty in my quest to teach school, which was achieved finally in 2007, 10 years after my nomination for the Arkansas Governor's Commission for People with Disabilities. Member of Challenged Conquistadors, Inc., who work with the Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety. I have received Beaumont Red Cross Disaster Assistance Training.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Caster	Melonie	Bedford	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability. My son Trae is 24 years old and due to traumatic brain injuries, he has disabilities. Trae lives at home and is very involved in our community. I graduated from Partners In PolicyMaking in 2002 and for 6 years I served as a member for the DD Council. I helped generate Senate Bill 328 known as Trae's Law (named after my son) that extended prosecution from 3 years to 10 years regarding injury to a child, those with disabilities and our elderly. I have been very involved with inclusive education for students within the HEB ISD. I am self-employed and a member St. Michael's Catholic Church and cofounded the Shaken Baby Alliance.</p>
Cooper	Linda	Aubrey	<p>I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. I worked for 20+ years with the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin working with the families of children with special health care needs. I worked for 15 years as a contractor working with the same population in Denton and Collin counties.</p> <p>The families I worked with had children whose disabilities included all the autism spectrum, cerebral palsy, various mental disabilities, diabetes, and any medically disabling diagnoses. When employed with DSHS in Austin, I read and recommended grants for approval to serve the CHSCN in the local health departments in the Region. I have volunteered to read grants for various social work programs.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Cordell	Joyce	El Paso	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability. My adult daughter has Down's syndrome. I have twenty years in raising an individual with special needs. We have been through it all, ARDS, speech therapy, gross motor and occupational physical therapy, etc. I am employed as the marketing at community relations director for El Paso Community College.</p> <p>I am a Board member for the Down Syndrome Coalition for El Paso (DSCEP), I chair the Buddy Walk committee and Marketing committee as well as member of the Programs, Medical and Calendar committees; and I also work with the director of our Every Little Blessings preschool.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Griesen	Troy	Grapevine	<p>I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. For over 30 years, I have worked in the field of IDD at the local, state, national and international levels in 75 countries. Currently I am the president and CEO of Ability Connection which provides comprehensive services to nearly 1000 children and adults with developmental disabilities across Texas including case management, therapy services, day program training centers, residential/group homes, and companion care. I have also been the president &amp; CEO of Special Abilities of North Texas, the managing director for Asia Pacific Special Olympics International, and the vice president of global operations for Special Olympics International.</p> <p>Currently, I volunteer as a local program Head of Delegation for a Special Olympics Team in the DFW area, and coach the team in several sports throughout the year, and coordinate other volunteers. Additionally, for Special Olympics, I also do fundraising, public awareness, and work as a consultant, trainer and speaker.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Hettler	Tonya	Idalou	<p>I have a disability, I am a family member of an individual with a disability. My 23 year old son is diagnosed with Autism. I was diagnosed with a papillary pineal tumor (brain tumor) in 2015 and underwent surgery. My past experience includes working under the Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health as a trainer when the former MHMR rolled out Benefit Design. After that, I managed grants for Texas Tech University with one of them, Project IDEAL, being a TCDD grant. My final employment was as a regional supervisor for Texas A&amp;M.</p> <p>In addition, I've served on committees locally at ESC-17, state-wide for TEA (Autism Rule Study Committee, the Texas Council on Autism &amp; PDD (reviewing proposals for their first TARRC conference), Bridges to Career PAC for the TCDD grant to TAMU and nationally for the IDEA Partnership (developed a training PPT for NASDE on behavior).</p> <p>In addition to Autism, I've also over 1000 CEUs for training which focused on behavior, mental health and the federal laws. I've also reviewed grant applications for TCDD once in the past.</p>



Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Holland	Terri	Christoval	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability and I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. My youngest daughter was diagnosed with mild intellectual developmental disabilities. She is now 29 years old and 4 years ago, she received her cosmetology license and lives on her own. I work for the West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, with the blind and visually impaired.</p> <p>I have also worked and consulted with Sonrisas, a therapeutic horseback riding facility for kids with disabilities, worked as a case manager for people with IDD, as well as a Habilitative Coordinator with Mosaic. I have been on the Texas Children's Policy Council in Austin, TX; I have also been on a committee at our local Mental Health Authority (MHMR) in the Concho Valley. In the past, I have been on the TCDD review panel and thoroughly enjoyed it.</p>
Jelks	Rachel	Spring	<p>I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. I am the CEO for Team Abilities Inc which provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities. I have my LVN license.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Kearney	Brooke	San Antonio	<p>I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. I have a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Master's Degree in Health Education from Kaplan University.</p> <p>Currently, I am the Director of CSCM (Community Services Case Management) and Community Education for the Arc of San Antonio. I am a TAPPEstry Planning Committee Member for ESC Region 20, IDD Stakeholders Committee Member through The Center for Health Care Services, Speaker for Texas Autism Conference, Bexar County Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG), Young Nonprofit Professionals of San Antonio and an alumna of Phi Mu Fraternity.</p>
Moody	Amanda	Buda	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability and I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. My child has multiple disabilities which includes Cerebral Palsy, Speech delay, and Esotropia. I received an Associate Degree from Austin Community College: Applied Arts and Science; and obtained a Sign Language Interpreting Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&amp;M University-Commerce: Applied Arts and Science: Organizational Leadership.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Prouhet	Shari	League City	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability., I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. For 32 years, I worked as a special educator in Texas in various capacities. I am the parent of a 42 year old significantly disabled daughter who receives HCS waiver services in our community. I am an Autism specialist from IBCCES and work part time as a contractor in school districts and privately with families regarding needs of their special needs child or student.</p> <p>I also work part time as a Support Services specialist for Imagine Enterprises, a CDS company. Currently volunteer with the Arc of the Gulf Coast, Autism on the Seas, volunteer supporter for families, and volunteer with the Gulf Coast Community Resource Committee.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Rahn	Julie	Rowlett	<p>I have a disability, I am a family member of an individual with a disability. I have a 22 year old son with Autism and a 19 year old son that is a C6-7 Quadriplegic. My oldest lives at home and works part time at Walmart. My youngest is attending UNT to study Political Science. I am hearing impaired and I wear hearing aids.</p> <p>For 17 years, I have been a Special Education Teacher and currently I am a special education teacher in Garland ISD. I have a Special Education Teacher Certificate (EC-12), Bachelor of Business Administration- Medical Management and a Masters of Business Administration- Advance Practitioner in Mediation. I also belong to Texas Parent to Parent.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Winges-Yanez	Nichole	Austin	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability and a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. My sister has an intellectual disability and Crohn's. Currently, I am working on my doctorate in social work with a focus on intellectual disability and sexuality. My previous work experience was primarily in residential settings with adults with intellectual disabilities and mental health conditions. Currently, I work at the Texas Center for Disability Studies at UT as a research associate.</p> <p>I have a part time position as the education coordinator at Q Toys of Austin and previously I worked at the Arc of Texas. Before moving to Austin, I was a graduate teaching assistant at Portland State University and helped write portions of federal grants. I volunteer for events and community work for AIDS Services of Austin.</p>
Wood	Teresa	Lewisville	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability. My 14 year old son has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, ADHD and Aspergers. I have attended meetings with Senators and Congressmen regarding funding in Washington DC, attended multiple workshops, and have done fundraising for the MDA. Also for my son, I attend public school ARD meetings.</p> <p>I am a member of Canine Companions for Independence/Puppy Raising, PAIMI/Council member, MDA/fundraising, and belong to Make A Wish Foundation.</p>

**Quarterly Council and Committee Meetings  
Dates:**

**August 2–4, 2017**  
Hilton Austin Airport

**November 1–3, 2017**

**February 7–9, 2018**

**May 2–4, 2018**

**Council Meeting — Agenda Item 13**

**Expected Action:**

Discussion only; no action is anticipated.